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AMATEUR RADIO

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EDITORIAL

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Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. of England

The 2nd June, 1953, is a date that will be recorded in the annals of history as depicting one of the most colorful, historical, and awe inspiring events of modern times—the Coronation of a Queen regnant—ELIZABETH II. OF ENGLAND.

This day is not only important to Her Majesty, but is also important to all her people wherever they may be situated throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations. Every man, woman and child will be with Her Majesty in spirit during the great ordeal of her Coronation, will be seeking early news and pictures of this great occasion, and will be praying that God grant her the health, strength and fortitude to carry her through this ceremony and on through the years of her reign.

The members of the Wireless Institute of Australia in particular pay tribute to a gracious lady and profess their loyalty, fidelity and allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. of England. May her reign be long and glorious.

FEDERAL EXECUTIVE.

THE CONTENTS . . .

Double Converting Disposals Receivers

The BC348 Receiver

BY F. O'DONNELL,† VK3ZU

VERY good results have been achieved by the double conversion of the BC348 (double ended series) at this station by a simple method, and so at the suggestion of several Hams, here is the conversion details.

The layout is not altered, the only major alteration being the replacement of the last three i.f. transformers (119, 120 and 122) with one of the 175 Kc. type.

The crystal filter is left intact and the first i.f. tube (6K7) is replaced by a converter type 6J8GA. The connection on the socket of this tube between suppressor and cathode (pins 5 and 8) is removed, leaving pins 5 and 6 vacant. Now the b.f.o. transformer (121) connections on pins 4 and 5 of the second i.f. tube 6K7 are disconnected and then connected to pins 5 and 6 of the new 6J8GA socket.

This transformer is now the oscillator coil of the new second converter and is then padded up to 740 Kc., making sure to connect the padder condensers (in addition to those originally installed) directly across the grid coil of the transformer. This can be done on the top of the transformer under the removable shield.

Output from the new converter is now 175 Kc. The last three i.f. transformers (119, 120, and 122) are now removed and replaced by 175 Kc. transformers. Aligning the 175 Kc. i.f's. and new converter stage is all that is now necessary.

The gain was found to be approximately the same as before the conversion, but the signal to noise ratio was improved. Thus we have a very selective receiver using the same number of tubes but now with one stage of 915 Kc. and two stages of 175 Kc.

A power supply was installed in the dynamotor well and selenium rectifiers used instead of a tube rectifier as heat generated was excessive when in a cabinet.

Numbers in brackets represent transformer numbers as per circuit in the manual. VK3ABP informed me that he has double converted a Command Receiver in the same manner and is more than pleased with the results. My thanks to VK3ABP for information and discussion on this type of receiver which eventually gave me the idea for this conversion which was so successful at this station.

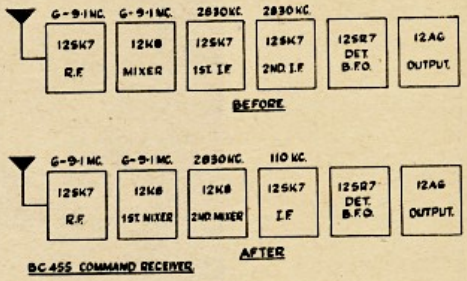
† Brook Street, Euroa, Vic.

Command Receivers

BY K. B. POUNSETT,* VK3ABP

THERE are many Amateurs who own Command Receivers BC455 or BC454 and find them lacking in selectivity for use on our crowded bands. This especially applies to the BC455 (6-9.1 Mc.) covering the 40 metre band.

The writer has a BC455 which was intended for portable use, using phone and c.w., and very early it was found to be most inadequate, in particular for c.w. reception. A few hours' work, plus a couple of low frequency i.f. transformers and substitution of one tube, made this little receiver a very sensitive and selective piece of work. The modification to double conversion is very simple and will be quite evident if the "Before" and "After" block diagrams are studied.



To carry out the conversion, obtain a pair of low frequency i.f. transformers (175, 110 or 50 Kc.); the frequency can be your own choice depending on how much selectivity you require, and another 12K8 or similar converter tube. The second and third i.f. transformers are removed from their sockets and the sockets are removed by the "brute force" method from the receiver. The 2nd i.f. transformer is removed from its can and the pie winding (an r.f. choke) is removed from the former. In place of this pie, a coil of six turns is wound on the former as a tickler winding. This is the second oscillator coil for the 2nd converter tube. The small fixed condenser is retained for use across the oscillator coil.

The first i.f. tube socket is re-wired to become the 2nd converter socket. Reference to any tube manual will readily determine how this can be done. The new oscillator coil is mounted beneath the tube socket. This will necessitate moving the 15 uF. output cathode bypass condenser to another spot. It can be mounted in the position of the 3 henry audio choke (numbered 5634, and designated L15 in circuit diagram) which was removed from the writer's receiver as an a.c. power supply is used. If the original genemotor supply is used, a 25 uF. 40 p.v. condenser may be substituted and located wherever there is room.

* 28 Lewisham Road, Windsor, S.1, Vic.

The 2nd oscillator coil is tuned by the original fixed condenser which has a capacity of 180 pF. and a 3-30 pF. trimmer. The 3-30 pF. trimmer is mounted near the coil on heavy gauge wire to keep the 2nd oscillator frequency stable. A hole must be drilled in the bottom plate to allow adjustment of the trimmer to set the 2nd oscillator frequency to 2830 Kc. minus the chosen 2nd i.f. The frequency can be set by using another communications receiver or a frequency meter.

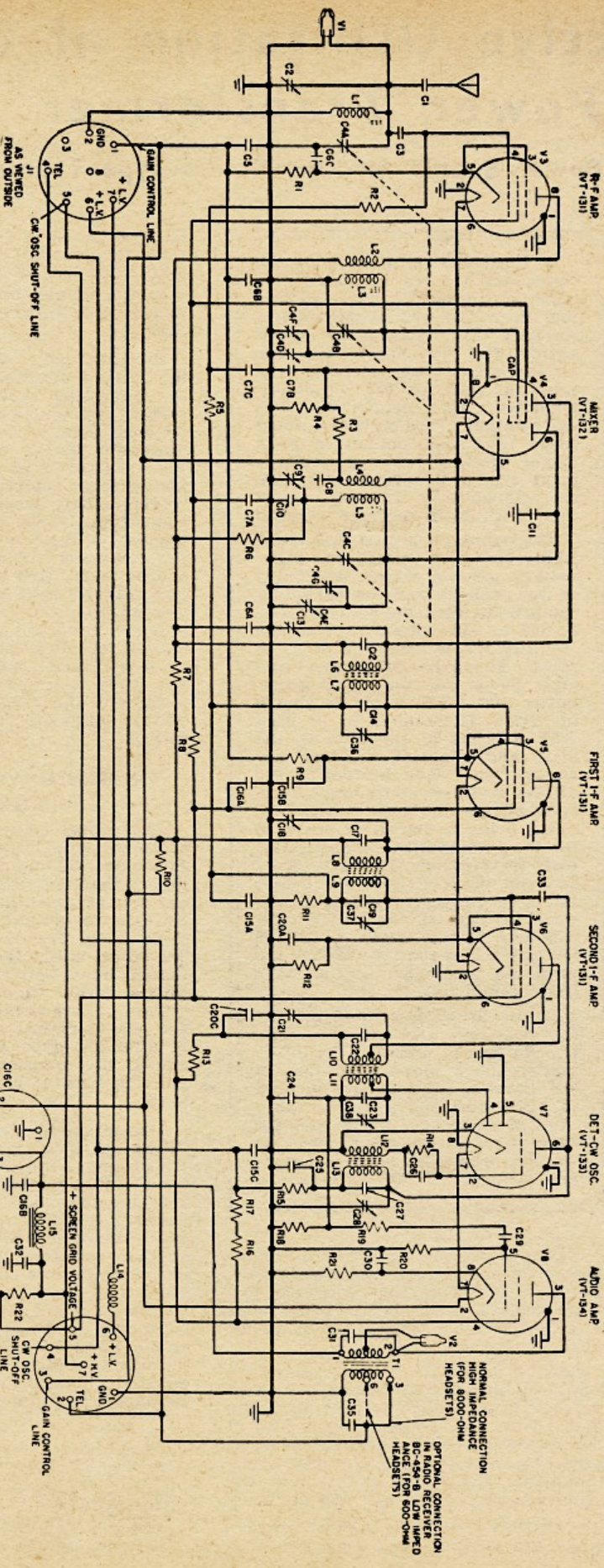
The rest of the job is comparatively simple. Wire in the new low frequency i.f. transformers and drill holes in the bottom plate to allow adjustment of the tuning slugs. It was found that best results are obtained by aligning the various circuits with the bottom plate on.

The b.f.o. was left as it was and results are excellent. A VR105 was used to stabilise the voltage on the r.f. and mixers' screens and the h.f. oscillators and the b.f.o. This was found necessary to keep down drift which necessitated continued adjustment of the b.f.o. control.

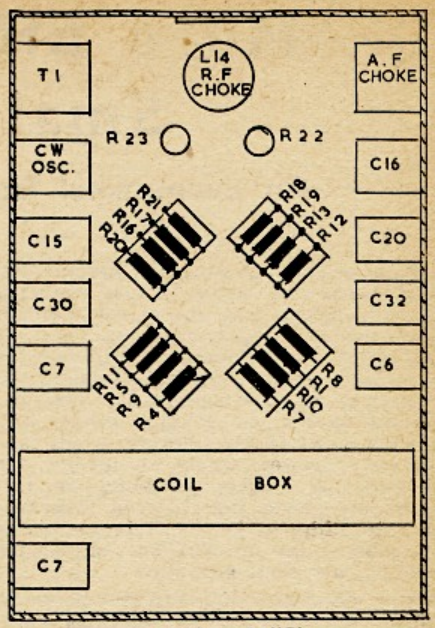
This double conversion modification can be applied to most types of disposal receivers. The BC348 lending itself admirably. For information on the initial modifications to SCR274N Command Receivers, readers are referred to "QST" and "CQ" magazines. Queries regarding this equipment (and most airborne disposals equipment) may be referred to the writer on the air or by post.

The writer wishes to extend appreciation to VK3ZU for advice and suggestions given over the air and to VK3ARO for his practical aid.

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF COMMAND RECEIVER



C1—11 pF.
C2—15 pF.
C3—100 pF.
C4 (A to G)—Gang (147 pF.)
C5—3 uF.
C6 (A, B, C)—0.05/0.05/0.05 uF.
C7 (A, B, C)—0.05/0.05/0.05 uF.
C8—200 pF.
C9—40 pF.
C10—365 pF.
C11—3 pF.
C12—180 pF.
C13—17 pF.
C14—180 pF.
C15 (A, B, C)—0.05/0.05/0.05 uF.
C16 (A, B, C)—0.22/0.22/0.22 uF.
C17—180 pF.
C18—17 pF.
C19—180 pF.
C20 (A, B, C)—0.05/0.01/0.05 uF.
C21—17 pF.
C22—180 pF.
C23—180 pF.
C24—200 pF.
C25—0.001 uF.
C26—100 pF.
C27—180 pF.
C28—34 pF.
C29—0.006 uF.
C30—15 uF.
C31—0.001 uF.
C32—5 uF.
C33—Wiring Capacitance (under 2 pF)
C35—750 pF.
C36—17 pF.
C37—17 pF.
C38—17 pF.
R1—620 ohms
R2—2 megohms
R3—51,000 ohms
R4—620 ohms
R5—150,000 ohms
R6—200,000 ohms
R7—200 ohms
R8—200 ohms
R9—620 ohms
R10—360,000 ohms
R11—100,000 ohms
R12—510 ohms
R13—200 ohms
R14—100,000 ohms
R15—5,100 ohms
R16—51,000 ohms
R17—51,000 ohms
R18—510,000 ohms
R19—100,000 ohms
R20—2 megohms
R21—1,500 ohms
R22—7,000 ohms
R23—7,000 ohms
L1—Ant. Input
L2, L3—RF Amp.
L4, L5—RF Osc.
L6, L7—In 1st IF
L8, L9—In 2nd IF
L10, L11—In 3rd IF
L12, L13—CW Osc.
L14—RF Choke, 112 Microhenrys
L15—AF Choke, 3 Henrys.
VT-131—12SK7.
VT-132—12K8.
VT-133—12SR7.
VT-134—12A6.



FRONT PANEL

View of receiver, inverted, and with front panel towards you. There are several other resistors and condensers not shown in the above diagram, but they are easily identifiable by inspection.

The layout and circuit diagram of the BC454A (3-6 Mc.) Receiver shown vary only slightly with different models.

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Ross A. Hull Memorial V.h.f. Contest, 1953, Results

This Contest as usual aroused considerable interest and although only 33 logs were submitted, practically every active v.h.f. station participated. Conditions generally were very much poorer than in the prior contest, openings being shorter and localised, and from an analysis of the logs, break-throughs from ZL were very poor except on the northern path to VK4 and even then not as numerous as in the past. The shorter period for the contest was well received.

The outright winner was VK4BT, scoring 1368 points from 271 contacts, followed by VK4KK, 809 points, and VK5QR, 709 points. Certificates will also be issued to the following State and ZL District winners: VK2WH, VK3IM, VK6BO, VK7LZ, ZL1ABG, and ZL2BJ.

SCORES

	Points		Points
VK4BT	1368	VK2XO	291
VK4KK	809	VK2VW	271
VK5QR	709	VK2ADS	247
VK6BO	662	VK2JX	234
VK4PQ	583	VK7LZ	217
VK3IM	571	VK5JD	216
VK4NG	544	VK2ABC	213
VK2WH	486	VK5JO	202
VK4XJ	452	ZL2HP	199
VK6HK	447	VK7AB	180
VK6WG	440	ZL2DS	129
VK3XK	386	VK3ABA	124
VK2WJ	370	VK2HE	123
ZL2BJ	356	VK2BY	86
VK2DQ	347	VK3YS	67
ZL1ABG	295	VK7BQ	47

Check Log: VK3GE, 134 points.

—Federal Contest Committee.

More Effective Utilisation of the Small Power Transformer*

An Economical Dual Power Supply for the Novice-Type Transmitter

It is perhaps not generally appreciated that there are some factors entering into the design and use of replacement type power transformers that can be employed to advantage, although in somewhat unconventional fashion, in powering small transmitters. The resultant saving in weight, space, and money is worth considering when laying out a power supply circuit for, for example, a novice, portable, or just plain low-power rag-chewing transmitter consisting of an oscillator, a buffer (possibly), and an 807 or comparable tube as the final amplifier.

The accompanying circuit shows a supply that delivers two voltages—one, approximately 240 volts at a load of 30 Ma. or so; the second, 600 volts at a load of 90 to 100 Ma. The transformer is a replacement type made by several manufacturers, and has a high-voltage secondary rated at 360 volts each side of the centre tap and a d.c. output current of 110 Ma. Yet it is not overloaded when delivering the outputs mentioned above; if anything, it runs considerably cooler than it would at its "normal" ratings.

There is nothing resembling magic in it. It is simply a question of utilising to best advantage the power capacity built into the transformer. There are three reasons why the ratings seemingly can be increased, assuming that a transformer of the receiver or replacement type is properly designed: first, it is built for continuous operation at full load; second, it is designed for working into a condenser-input filter; third, it has filament windings designed to handle a good-sized receiver or amplifier.

CONTINUOUS VS. INTERMITTENT DUTY

The amount of power that a transformer can handle safely is determined by the temperature at which it can operate without danger of damaging the insulation. The temperature in turn is determined by the rate at which heat is generated—i.e., the power loss in the transformer—and the rate at which the generated heat is radiated. The final temperature is reached when these two rates just balance each other.

There are two sources of power loss in a transformer, loss in the iron core—in a given transformer, this loss is practically constant regardless of the power being handled—and loss in the windings because of the current flowing through the resistance of the wire. The latter, generally called "I^2R" or "copper" loss, is very small (occurring only in the primary) when there is no output, but increases rapidly as more power is drawn from the secondary. Most transformers are designed with the object of making the core losses and copper losses just about equal each other when the transformer is delivering its full rated load, because the over-all efficiency of the transformer is highest under such conditions.

Now let us assume that the secondary load is a keyed c.w. transmitter, with the key down approximately half the time. Then the average power loss in the copper is only one-half what it would be were the key held down continuously. Hence we can double the key-down power loss and still not have the average loss exceed the value for which the windings were designed. Since the loss varies as the square of the current, the current taken by the transmitter can be increased in the ratio of $\sqrt{2}$, or 1.4 times the output current for which the transformer is nominally rated.

This example is somewhat oversimplified, since a transformer of the type we are discussing probably would not be entirely without load with the key up. At least some of the filament windings no doubt would be used, and there would probably be a bleeder across the high-voltage output consuming some power. These would reduce the ratio somewhat. However, the main point applies—if the transformer is designed for continuous operation, more power can be taken from it when a substantial part of the load is intermittent. (By intermittent is meant here that the load is on for relatively short periods—up to several minutes, possibly—and off for at least equal intervals.) But it does **not** apply to transformers **rated** for intermittent operation, such as the high power equipment sold under I.C.A.S. ratings.

CONDENSER- VS. CHOKE-INPUT FILTERS

The copper loss in the high-voltage secondary of a transformer working into a condenser-input filter is appreciably higher than it is when the same secondary delivers the same d.c. output current through a properly-designed choke-input filter. This is because the current waveform is highly distorted with condenser input and the current flows in pulses rather than in a continuous stream. There is no fixed ratio between the secondary losses with the two types of filters; it depends on the filter constants, the transformer characteristics, and the kind of rectifier tube or tubes used.

Measurements made with typical filters of both types, used with the transformer in the circuit diagram, showed that for the same d.c. load current the secondary power loss was between 2 and 2.5 times as great with a condenser-input filter, using a high-vacuum rectifier.† Consequently, about 50 per cent. more current could be taken from the transformer with choke input than with condenser input, for the same secondary heating. Unfortunately, with choke input the d.c. output voltage is considerably lower than with condenser input so there is no marked power advantage—it is simply a matter of swap-

• Until you sit down with the catalogues and try to do it, it is hard to appreciate the obstacles that lie in the way of designing a compact and economical power supply for the simple rig—one having one or two receiving type tubes driving an 807 or similar amplifier. This article describes one solution, based on taking about twice the rated amount of plate power from a low-cost replacement type transformer—yet with the transformer running cooler than it would in "normal" service!

The supply is a dual unit furnishing both low-voltage and high-voltage outputs which, depending on line voltage and the particular components used, are approximately 600 to 650 volts at 100 to 130 Ma. and 220 to 240 volts at 25 to 50 Ma. It supplies all filament and plate power for the small transmitter and, when wired as shown in Fig. 1, is intended to be used with a break-in set—that is, the plate and filament voltages are always "on." The heaters of the 6X5GT rectifiers go on immediately when the line cord is attached, but a primary switch is provided for the combination filament-and-plate transformer. This is to make sure the 6X5GTs are hot before the 5V4G rectifier goes into operation, because if the latter tube conducts first a negative voltage appears across the low-voltage tap until the time when the 6X5GTs begin conducting.

If you aren't interested in why this seemingly overload on a small transformer is possible, the information above, plus the captions on the diagram, is about all you need to build and use a similar unit. The information is principally for those who might want to apply similar principles using components having different ratings.

* Reprinted from "QST," November, 1952.

† Although this is a single measurement, it is probably safe to assume that the same ratio will hold in any comparable supply—that is, one using a high-vacuum rectifier and an input condenser of about 8 uF. The ratio will increase if a mercury-vapor rectifier is used, and also to some extent if the capacitance of the input condenser is increased.

ping current for voltage. However, a check of the primary current showed that for the same d.c. **power** output the primary current with the choke-input filter was only about 0.7 of the value with condenser input. Hence the primary is better utilised with choke input. This is an important consideration, since all the power eventually realised has to pass through the primary.

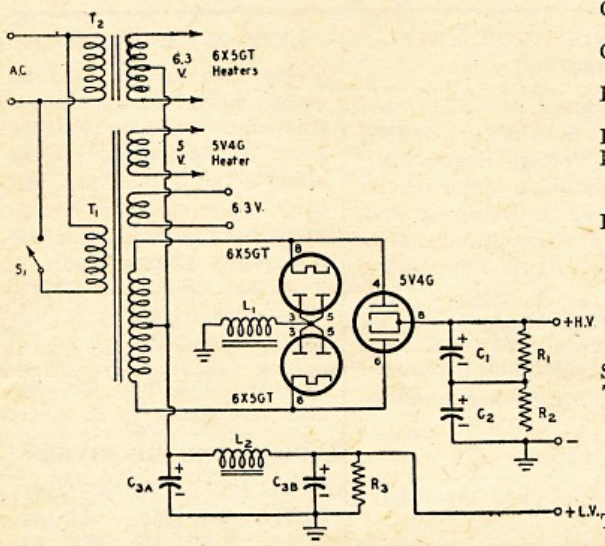
The question is how to cash in on the advantage that results from choke input, since using it reduces the voltage to a value that would not be much good for an 807. There is an "out" in the bridge rectifier.

BRIDGE VS. CENTRE-TAP RECTIFIER

The bridge rectifier is not much used in Amateur circuits, although its characteristics are generally known. Principally, it requires four rectifier elements but does not require a centre tapped transformer. Thus by using the whole secondary the d.c. output voltage is twice what could be secured with a centre-tap rectifier.

It does not automatically follow that the same d.c. output current can be taken in both cases. Twice the voltage at the same current means that the power output is doubled, and that in turn means that the transformer losses are at least doubled in the ordinary case. For example, in a transformer designed for transmitting plate supplies using choke-input filters, the bridge rectifier seldom offers any advantage because if the output voltage is doubled the current must be halved in order to stay within the transformer capabilities. But with a small replacement type transformer we have seen that the secondary loss can at least be cut in half, for the same output current, by changing from condenser to choke input in the filter. In this case, then, the bridge rectifier does offer the possibility of getting twice the voltage at the same current, provided a choke-input filter is used.

Of course this means that the primary must be capable of handling the additional power, and in the type of transformer we have been discussing this is quite possible. First, as described above, there is a reduction in primary current in changing from condenser to choke input. This is worth, in this specific case, about 25 more watts of high-voltage output. Second, in powering a small transmitter we do not usually



C1, C2—16 uF. electrolytic 450 volts.
C3—Dual electrolytic, 8 and 16 uF., 450 volts.
R1, R2—20,000 ohms, 10 watts, wire wound.
R3—0.1 megohm, 1 watt.
L1—Filter choke, 10.5 henrys 110 Ma., 225 ohms, approximately.
L2—"A.c.-d.c." filter choke, ratings not critical. Any small choke rated for approximately 40 Ma. and having a resistance of 350 ohms or less will be satisfactory.
S1—S.p.s.t. toggle.
T1—Replacement type power transformer, approximate ratings 360v. each side c.t. at 110 Ma., 5v. at 3 amp., 6.3v. at 4.5 amp.
T2—Filament transformer, 6.3 volts at 1.2 amp.

Fig. 1.—Circuit diagram of the dual power supply. Note that the line switch, S1, is not in series with the primary of T2, the filament heating transformer for the 6X5GTs, but controls only the larger transformer, T1. This is to prevent turning on the plate voltage before the 6X5GT cathodes have come up to temperature, for the reason described elsewhere. This unit can be built on a chassis 7" x 7" x 2".

have to make full use of the filament secondaries. Transformers of the general type used here all have a 5-volt 3-amp. winding for the rectifier tube and a 6.3-volt winding with a current rating varying slightly from make to make. This particular one is rated at 4.5 amp., which will do well enough for discussion. If a rectifier tube having a 2-amp. filament is used we release 5 watts to the high-voltage end. If the transmitting tube filaments do not take more than 1.5 amp., a reasonable value, we release an additional 19 watts to the high-voltage supply, a total of 24. Added to the 25 saved by using a choke-input filter, we have close to 50 watts of primary capacity to spare for the extra load we expect to take from the secondary. It is ample.

RECTIFIER CONSIDERATIONS

A bridge rectifier offers some practical difficulties, if the cost is to be kept to a minimum. There would be no problem at all if there were available a double rectifier having separate, indirectly heated cathodes and a cathode-to-heater break-down rating of 1000 volts or so. The best we could find in the tube manuals was the 6X5GT, which is a full-wave rectifier that does **not** have separate cathodes, and has a heater-cathode rating of only 450 volts peak. Two tubes were required, both to get the needed separate cathodes and also to get sufficient current-carrying capacity, by paralleling the elements in each tube. It was considered out of the question to light the filaments from the 6.3-volt winding on the transformer, since that winding would be connected to negative high voltage and ground in the normal wiring of a transmitter, thus making the peak heater-cathode voltage on each 6X5GT close to 1000 volts. Hence a separate small filament transformer was used for these two tubes, with the secondary connected to the centre tap of the high-voltage winding as shown in Fig. 1. This reduces the peak heater-cathode voltage on each tube to about 500 volts, slightly over the rating but not excessively so.

To use the bridge rectifier with a transformer having appreciably higher secondary voltage would require two extra filament transformers instead of one, so that each rectifier cathode could be connected directly to the filament and thus eliminate the heater-to-cathode voltage problem. The insulation requirement is thereby transferred from the tube to the filament transformer.

FILTERS

The higher output voltage from the bridge rectifier of course necessitates filter condensers having higher working ratings than the ordinary electrolytic. For economy's sake this power supply uses a single-section filter, the input choke, L1, being a type also standard with several manufacturers and rated at 10.5 henrys at 110 Ma. d.c. Although the total current through it is normally around 150 Ma. there is no danger of burning it out, because the intermittent operation considerations apply equally as well to the choke as to the transformer. Since a bleeder is a necessity, a pair of resistors, R1 and R2, is used to divide the voltage equally so that electrolytic condensers can be used in series.

This power supply uses an old stunt that seems to have dropped out of use in recent years. The d.c. voltage at the centre tap of the high-voltage winding is approximately half the d.c. output voltage from the bridge rectifier (with the 6X5GTs, the secondary forms an "inverted" centre tap rectifier system) and so offers a convenient means for taking off a lower voltage to run an oscillator, the amplifier screen, and so on. This tap is provided with a filter of its own, since good smoothing is needed for the low-level stage or stages in a transmitter. Only the input choke, L1, is common to both filters. It was made common to both in order to save the cost of an extra choke. Entirely separate filters, with both input chokes in the positive lead (as is customary) could be used instead.

A comparison between the circuit shown and separate filters with individual input chokes in the positive lead showed some differences for which we are unable to account completely; putting the choke in the negative lead seems to give some of the characteristics of both choke- and condenser-input filters. We mean by this that the output voltage from the bridge rectifier is higher than it should be, theoretically, with a choke-input filter, although it is not as high as with condenser input. With the choke in the positive lead the load voltage comes down to the proper value. The transformer capacitance shunting the choke when it is in the negative lead has been suggested as an explanation, but tests show that it does not begin to account for the whole effect. The net result is that with a 100 Ma. load the output voltage is 600 with the choke in the negative lead as against slightly over 500 with it in the positive lead.

HEATING

Several heat runs were made on the unit under representative operating conditions, using it to power a 6V6-807 transmitter in which both tubes were keyed. In a typical run of several hours during which the transmitter was kept on the air as much as possible in ordinary rag-chewing, the secondary winding showed a temperature rise of approximately 35°C. over an ambient temperature of 27°C. (80°F.) and the primary a rise of 31°C. The plate input to the 807 was adjusted to 53 watts (630 volts at 85 Ma.), the figure at which the tube happened to work most efficiently. The measurements were made by the resistance method, and allowing the customary 10° for hot spots gives a final secondary temperature of a little over 70°—far below the 95° generally considered the maximum safe temperature for the type of insulation used in these transformers.

In another more severe test the unit was operated with the same load on continuously for a half hour, off 15 minutes, and on continuously for another hour. The secondary showed a temperature rise of 56° after this test, still within safe limits.

For comparison, a small transformer operated at its ratings in a condenser-input receiver supply also was measured after a few hours of continuous operation, and the temperature rise was measured to be 61°C. Like most transformers in such supplies, the temperature of the small unit was such that the hand could not be held on it continuously. The transformer in the supply

shown here, on the other hand, while noticeably warm, was by no means too hot to hold continuously, after the "half-hour on, etc." test described above.

OUTPUT VOLTAGES AND CURRENTS

The 40,000 ohm bleeder on the high-voltage tap holds the no-load voltage at about 770 volts (with a line voltage of 117). The no-load voltage on the low tap is held at about 300 by the input choke and high-voltage bleeder, and so the low-voltage bleeder is used simply to discharge the filter condensers. There are no set current ratings on this unit, but as more current is taken from one tap less should be taken from the other. Bear in mind that the current from the low-voltage tap has a greater heating effect on the secondary because it is coming from a centre-tap rectifier. The transmitter we have used with the unit happens to take about 30 Ma. from the low-voltage tap, at which current the output voltage is 240. Another 20 Ma. could easily be taken for an additional buffer or frequency multiplier.

On the high-voltage side the voltage drops off as the load current is increased, principally because of increased drop in the rectifier tubes. Because of this the practical limit was about 60 watts with the particular transformer used. This is a quite satisfactory power level for a small transmitter. The filtering is more than adequate to bring "pure d.c." reports, the ripple measuring 0.4 per cent. on the low-voltage tap and 3 per cent. on the high voltage, at the load currents mentioned earlier.

VALE

DAVID MONK ADAMS, VK2AE

It is with deep regret the passing is recorded of Dr. David Monk Adams, VK2AE, at the early age of 33.

Dave was a very active and enthusiastic Amateur pre-war and became very well known in DX circles—one of the very few Australian Amateurs to contact 100 different countries pre-war. First licensed in 1934, he was then only 14 years of age and probably the youngest Amateur in Australia. He had qualified for his A.O.C.P. sometime previously. In 1936, he won the junior section of the B.E.R.U. Contest and in 1937 participated in the first Australian National Field Day competition.

Dave's scholastic career was brilliant, graduating B.Sc. with first-class honours and the University Medal in 1942, M.B., B.S. with second-class honours in 1945, and M.Sc. in 1947. He had also completed his thesis for his doctorate in Philosophy. In 1948 he proceeded to Canada on a three year Rockfeller Scholarship for medical research. On his return he was appointed a lecturer at Sydney University.

Dave suffered ill-health from an early age and in Canada convalescence for 12 months after a serious illness. He was present at this year's N.S.W. Division's Hamfest and spoke of his plans for a re-entry into the hobby.

To his family and his many friends condolences are extended.

JACK KEBBLEWHITE, VK2IN

The news of the passing of Jack Kebblewhite, VK2IN, on 10th May, at the age of 64 was received with deep regret.

Jack, although only licensed post-war, was an ardent radio enthusiast for many years and was nearly sixty years of age when he qualified for his A.O.C.P. He learnt the morse code thoroughly and was always an adept user of the key. The 10 mx band interested him most, and using folded dipoles contacted much DX on c.w. and phone. He was active at times on all bands 10 through to 80 mx. His equipment, always beautifully constructed, was admired by all who had the privilege of inspecting it.

Keb was an ardent supporter of the W.I.A. although not actively engaged in its affairs—his business commitments were too exacting—he believed the future of Amateur Radio lay in a strong and effective Institute.

Jack in civil life was a leading Sydney businessman—Managing Director of Beard Watsons Ltd., for 25 years.

To his family condolences are extended.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES, VK3RJ, MANAGER

Old friend, Dan Wilkinson, ZL2AB, informs me that ZL loses a portion of the 3.5 Mc. band as from 1st September. New allotment will be 3500 Kc. to 3900 Kc.

Information has been received that a National Society has now been formed in Chile, and it is hoped to thereby group the Radio Clubs presently scattered all over that country. The new association is styled Asociacion de Radio Aficionados de Chile (A.R.A.C.H. for short) and has established its QSL Bureau with QTH as Box 5529, Santiago, Chile. Our good wishes are extended to the new body.

The Gothenburg Radioamateur Society—G.S.A.—has decided to issue the W.G.S.A. certificate available to world-wide Amateurs. Conditions are: Contacts with Gothenburg Amateurs since 31st December, 1952. Two stations in Gothenburg must be worked—the same one on two separate bands will suffice and confirmations, together with three International reply coupons, must be sent to the W.G.S.A. Manager, SM6ID, Goteborga Sandare Amatorer, Box 609, Gothenburg 6, Sweden. A list of Gothenburg stations is held at the Federal QSL Bureau.

An additional new award is the A.R.I's. Certificato del Mediterraneo. Requirements are (a) Certified contact with 22 countries washed by the Mediterranean Sea, (b) Certified contact with 30 provinces of the Italian Republic. Contacts may only be had with fixed stations and be dated subsequent to 1st June, 1952. Three International reply coupons must accompany the application for the certificate which should be addressed to A.R.I. Segreteria Generale, via S. Paolo 10, Milan, Italy. Confirmations, however, can be sent to the Federal QSL Manager for certification, thus avoiding the expense and risk of forwarding them overseas. A list of the Mediterranean countries and a list of the Provinces of Italy are held at this Bureau.

FIFTY MEGACYCLES AND ABOVE

N.S.W. V.H.F. GROUP

50 Mc.: There has been very little activity on this band of late, we must use this band if we want to hold it. The usual few are holding the fort. Some country activity is noted, Crief 2XO has 24 hour link with Peter 2PA with signal S6/9. 2JK has been heard in Lismore at strength 9. 7 Mc. gossip has it that at least four chaps are preparing for 6 mx.

144 Mc.: As usual, this band is very active, and becoming increasingly so in the country areas. These country chaps are doing a good job. Country areas north report, 2AAM flying to Urunga with 2 mx gear with 2w., hopes to contact Urunga boys, he is flying at 8,000 ft. 2JK re-building 2 mx gear for mobile use. 2ADN/M QSOed 2XO over 15 miles at good strength. 2PA and 2AHH on 2 mx with super regens and mod. osc. Western activity, Bill 2ACT (Dubbo) QSOed Norm 2JW (Orange), 2BT (Young) has QSOed 2TA. This is good work.

2AMV/M visited Sydney and Wollongong, working 2 mx all the way, he had many contacts including 2ANF, 2HO, 2LZ, 2LS, 2APQ, 2WJ. John was last heard at Medlobath. He had an excellent signal even while travelling fast. 2AXS is on 2 mx with an 829, so keep a lookout for him.

2DB and 2ALO spent their holiday at the top of Mt. Gibralta, Bowral, working 2 mx gear, both having separate tx's and rx's, and each in separate locations on the mountain. They also had 7 Mc. gear. They put fine signals into Sydney, S9 plus. 2HE is re-building new portable gear and should be about soon. 2BQ of Tumut has QSOed Hugo 2WH at Forbes. 2ACT has QSOed 2EI (Parkes) —this is all of 60 miles.

John 2ANF has worked 2WH with n.b.f.m. both ends, it proved successful. Joyce 2AMJ has been working on 144 Mc. and has a good signal (mod. osc.), she is on the h.f. end. Ralph 2ARM is now among the big signals on 144 Mc. and has excellent quality; he is using 3 x 3 beam. Perc. 2APQ has also a fine signal and nice quality. 2GU and 2PM have been active from Canberra and heard at week-ends.

2ANF has contacted 2ACT and 2AMR (Dubbo) quite a lot of late, with signals varying from S3 to 5. Good going boys, 2WH and 2ANF now use f.s.k. and n.b.f.m. as well. 2AJZ and 2ABD have worked 2WH a number of times, signals S3 to 6. A lot of interest is now given to n.b.f.m. in Sydney and Forbes. To date good results have been had with this system, n.b.f.m. sigs being received at Forbes and Newcastle when a.m. could not be copied. Reception is being done mostly on slope, but at least three or four stations have discriminators (outboard units).

"The autumn field day" was a great success, and at least seven mobile stations were out in the field. Home stations were on the same footing re the gaining of points, at 1 point per mile. Some very good scores will result. 2ANF/M Mt. Tomai, 2ATO/M Mt. Piddington, 2OA Mt. Boyce, 2YE Terry Hills, 2ABB Razorback, 2ABO/M anywhere on Mountains, 2JW Mt. Canobalas, 2AGL/M Blackheath. There were 31 stations participating. The results were not out when this went to press.

Most all above stations have or are building xtal control converters and operate on xtal tx's.

We apologise to all for missing the press last month. With our new President, Bob Winch 2OA, the V.h.f. Group held a meeting on 1st May, there was a very good roll-up. Business was discussed and then a recording of the activities of a major Civil Defence Emergency Network practice was played back to the Group. This was received well, and apart from its entertainment value, proved quite instructive. Two recordings were played and we thank John 2JU and Berry 2ABB for a really fine effort. All agree that there should be more of this.

The C.D.E.N., incidentally, is now well under way and many practices, both major and minor, have been conducted. All have been successful. We would like to hear from anyone interested in this movement on 144 Mc. News of this movement each month from now on will come under C.D.E.N. News.—2HO.

VICTORIAN DIV. V.H.F. GROUP

The final contest field day in the series took place on 26th April and a number of 2 mx portables were active from mountain locations despite rather unsettled weather. 3NW returned to his old hunting ground of Mt. Donna Buang. Country stations portable were 3UI and 3ZL. 3ADU and 3YS operated mobile during the early evening.

To stimulate interest and activity with gear suitable for civil defence communication, mobile work on the v.h.f. bands is being encouraged. It has been proposed to hold a "fox" hunt on 144 Mc. The mobile equipped "fox" car to be located by the other mobile operators with the assistance of fixed stations. It is possible to get fairly simple gear going for mobile work on 144 Mc. A crystal controlled tx with three valves, one a modulator, and a rx consisting of a converter into a super regen second detector makes a suitable set-up. There are other possible combinations, the main thing being to get something going.

The next V.h.f. Meeting will take place on 17th June in the Institute Rooms at 8 p.m. The agenda item is a talk by Kevin 3AMB, on hearing aid techniques. He will have equipment to illustrate his lecture. This should be of interest to those contemplating construction of miniature equipment. You are welcome to attend these meetings whether on the v.h.f's. or not. If you have a friend interested in radio, bring him along.

An American Amateur magazine reports that W4AO, of Virginia, recently succeeded in getting 144 Mc. signals through to W3LZD, of Pennsylvania, by means of moon reflection. This is quite an achievement although apparently two-way QSOs have not as yet taken place.

VK3IM reports openings on 6 mx to VK4 on the 11th and 21st of April.

288 Mc.—3PO and 3BL are constructing gear for portable work. They plan a trip to Mt. Buninyong early in June. No news from the Geelong area, but 3APK did propose coming on. 3IM expected on band with crystal controlled tx. 3QO has gear but it's not being used. 3AAF and 3AFJ experimenting with vertical and horizontal polarisation. 3ALK has built another rx and now hears signals at home QTH. Stations in the Essendon area are known to be active, but no reports have been had from any of them.

Some general remarks on the 6 mx band may be of interest. Each year since VKs occupied this band there have been many Interstate and ZL contacts due to sporadic E propagation, which has been confined mainly to Nov. through to Feb. In the northern hemisphere the most active period for sporadic E contacts on 50 Mc. is May through to Aug., which is, of course, their summer season. It is of interest to note that the American Amateur magazines prior to the war reported many long distance contacts through this type of propagation in the 56-60 Mc. band. Although only limited reports are available, apparently pre-war VKs observed signs of it on the same band. The first 50 Mc. Interstate QSO was made on the 5th Dec., 1946, by 3MJ and 2NO. It wasn't long before all States and ZL were contacting one another. Although it is not suggested that Sporadic E was involved here, a notable 50 Mc. contact was that on 26th Aug., 1947, between VK5KL and W7ACS/KH6. Subsequently, further KH6 and VK9 contacts occurred. Much has been achieved, but there is room for more activity. Don't forget that the v.h.f. bands have plenty of operating space.

Following a suggestion that distances worked on 144 Mc. and above may be of interest, some of the long haul contacts are given. Dealing with 144 Mc., we would first like to acknowledge the fine performances of VK2AH—ZL3AR and VK5GL—VK6BO in Dec., 1951. The distance in each case is in the region of 1,325 miles. This is close to the American record which is about 1,400 miles. In the case of VK3, the longest distances worked are: For 144 Mc., 312 miles by 3GM (portable at Mt. Buninyong) to 7PF and 7LZ, Launceston. On 288 Mc., 3ANW at Sassafras worked 3BD, 17 miles. On 580 Mc., 3ANW at Donna Buang contacted 3AKE, 90 miles; and on 2300 Mc., 3ANW at Sassafras worked 3XA, 10 miles.—3ABA.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"Look out for 96 Megs" is the expression of caution passed on by the afflicted v.h.f. Ham to his brother adventurer. So went my blessing to Tom as he departed for Renmark, and I wasn't very surprised when a few days later a parcel arrived and inside—you've guessed it—a loop of wire attached to a small condenser and a lamp, the lowly absorption meter, with a slip of paper which read: "I see what you mean about 96 Mc.!" That simple contraption is a must in the Ham shack before any v.h.f. work is embarked on and grid dip osc. notwithstanding. A grid dip osc. can indicate resonance very well indeed at v.h.f.—so well indeed that it can turn out to be the filament connections! Enough words of wisdom on that count. I can still remember a station calling another VK5 one Saturday afternoon and then discovering to his horror that he was about 15 cycles away from the f.m. station!

Jack 5LR is still making use of the bands and hopes to have worked five VK5 stations by the end of June if they will come on to the band. Keep it up Jack, you've got a cobber in 5CA. Brian's a night owl though and delights in late sessions over cups of tea. Even Joe 5JO sticks to Sunday morning by preference and can be pretty sure of a contact then. Where's Les 5AX? There is no excuse for you now Lance, no fires, no holidays—what about a 6 or a 2 mx signal from that tower, CQ DE 5XL. Clem 5GL very active these days, getting ready for the predicted break through on 2 mx (vide 5XU, "A.R.," May, 1953). Yes, my friends, he is building a tape recorder to make sure that he can play back his next feat, to keep his interest when the bands die. Or maybe it's because Bill 5HD has that tower completed with a 6 mx, a 2 mx 4 over 4, and a 1 mx Yagi all ready and fired up for future reference.

I was rather interested in his preference for horizontal polarisation on all bands, so curiosity getting the better of me, I resorted to the "g-g" and found: Vertical polarisation preferable for local contacts, less fading, better over sea water, less troubled with ground reflections; horizontal polarisation, subject to quick fading at distances up to 100 miles due to multi-reflections from the discontinuity of the air layers up to 5 miles high, but even pegging with v.p. for dodging reflections off high terrain, and h.p. has better discrimination against local man-made QRM. For long distance work, i.e. F2 layer or sporadic E, there is no preference. Makes you think! (U.K. uses v.p., whilst U.S.A., h.p.) For me, it's easier to build a horizontal array and swing it round my pole top.

Perhaps Ross 5AJ will publish his findings one day as he still seems to find time to chase 2 mx waves as well as "brain waves." Haven't heard Jack 5VJ or Wally 5DF on 6 or 2 mx yet, but since they report on my 3.5 Mc. transmissions, I must give them a mention and a word of cheer. Next month I'll be able to pass on more words of wisdom as by the time you read this, Clem 5GL will have delivered his lecture on "V.h.f. Technique," and since he has a reputation to uphold, I'm looking forward, as of writing, to his dissertation.

The South East has hibernated—maybe I was meant to pass out the news bit by bit, Col? Don't let me down boys, do something! Even 5RO when I asked him how the Q/40, etc., was going, admitted that he "wasn't doing much these days." Maybe we could do with that Technician Licence! Reg 5RR consistent on 288 Mc.

My faith has been boosted—latest flash—(5MD note). 5PS is leaving the taxi band waggon and is migrating to 288 Mc. with the usual mod. osc. and super regen. I've hauled out the 1143A and dusted the cobwebs off it so that 5QR, 5GL, 5HD and yours truly can work him on xtal! Maybe!—5XU.

AMATEUR CALL SIGNS

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1953

ADDITIONS

VK—

New South Wales

2QB—L. C. Pinkevitch, 30 Buchanan St., Hamilton, Newcastle.
2AOR—L. J. Sparke, 58 Kahibah Rd., Highfields, via Adamstown.
2ARS—R. J. Sleeman, 46 Hocking Ave., Earlwood.
2AYD—D. E. Evans, on board the M.V. "Manoora." (Postal: C/o. Adelaide S.S. Co., Ltd., Bridge St., Sydney.)

Victoria

3DY—D. V. Scott, 174 Johnson St., Maffra.

Queensland

4RE—R. H. Hildred, Weewondilla Rd., Warwick.
4SH—S. J. Henkel, Kilkivan.
4WT—N. J. G. Watling, Victoria Mill, C/o. Colonial Sugar Refinery Co., via Ingham.

South Australia

5DO—R. H. Richards, 44 Wattle St., Fullarton Estate.
5HW—H. M. Watson, 82 Glyde St., Albert Park.
5PU—R. G. Roper, 27 Leslie St., Woodville.
5RG—R. S. Gurr, 32 Elder Ter., Dunleath Gardens.

Tasmania

7UW—S. H. Pattison, 36 Mark St., Burnie.

Territories

1BA—B. A. Fiebig, Macquarie Island.
1RL—R. L. Fraser, Macquarie Island.

ALTERATIONS

VK—

New South Wales

2EY—28 Verbena Avenue, Bankstown.
2UG—Flat No. 2, 383 Maroubra Rd., Maroubra.
2WB—3 Eastview Avenue, North Ryde.
2ALM—Shelley Beach, Lighthouse Rd., Port Macquarie.
2AOF—16 Warringah Street, Manly West.
2APB—Edgar Street, Coffs Harbour.
2AQR—20 Weir Road, Warragamba Dam.

Victoria

3DV—1 Eckford Street, Dandenong.
3JI—24 Tennyson Street, Highett.
3OC—6 Bonville Court, Hartwell.
3OK—Station: Wimmera House, Wilson Street, Horsham; Postal: C/o. Station 3WV, Dooen.
3QD—11 Leinster Street, Ormond.
3RB—Mangan Street, Bulleen.
3RP—37 Laurie Street, Newport, W.15.
3VE—Portable: 11 Leinster Street, Ormond.
3XG—9 Wright Street, East Kew.
3ZU—Brook Street, Euroa.
3AHE—18 Mitchell Street, Traralgon.
3ALZ—19 Mantell Street, Moonee Ponds.
3ARO—R.A.A.F. Station, Laverton.
3AXR—41 Molden Street, East Bentleigh.

Queensland

4GL—Yaminal Hill Cres., Camp Hill, Brisbane.
4HT—3 Speedy Street, Red Hill, Brisbane.
4KE—Aerodrome, Camooweal.
4RJ—Methodist Parsonage, 110 Peary Street, Northgate, Brisbane, Queensland.

South Australia

5FM—8 Hoggs Road, Mitcham.
5RV—29 Eddy Street, Clearview.
5VG—Flying Doctor Base Station, Alice Springs.

Western Australia

6AW—330 Hector Street, Tuart Hill.
6BR—183 Shenton Road, Geraldton.
6GA—33 Mars Street, Carlisle.
6KD—Cowaramup.

Tasmania

7AZ—Clarence Street, Bellerive.

Territories

9FK—C/o. Department of Civil Aviation, Lae, T.N.G.

DELETIONS

New South Wales: VKs 2AKC, 2ANI, 2ASF, 2ATB, 2ATT, 2AWT (now operating under VK4WT).

Victoria: VKs 3FR, 3QV, 3ABT, 3AEF, 3AML, 3AOK.

South Australia: VKs 5AS, 5LP, 5PQ.

Tasmania: VKs 7GK, 7SK, 7XO.

Territories: VKs 1RG (now operating under VK5RG), 1SW.

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ERRATUM, VK-ZL CONTEST RESULT

The score of VK5CE was incorrectly shown as 162 while it should have been 399. This means that the top VK5 station is now VK5CE instead of VK5LC, who is now in second position.

DX NOTES BY VK7RK*

Brief comments on three different items serve to open the record of DX doings for the month. The first concerns our newest acquisition—the 21 Mc. band. After a full year of operation, it seems to me that this band is developing into an almost exclusively phone band and that is not good. Don't get me wrong—I enjoy a share of phone operating almost as much as c.w., but have heard on this band many QSOs just simply die when they could have been quite successfully concluded on c.w. By all means use phone and long life to the tonsils, but don't forget the lower 150 Kc.; given activity, the DX will look for c.w. and see the country list grow.

The second one is in almost similar vein and deals with the old, old complaint. Phone in the c.w. section, but this time its 3.5 and 7 Mc. the sufferers. That 50 Kc. is narrow enough now with a few S9 signals and I'm sure that if the few offenders would just exercise a little more thought and screw the v.f.o. dial a little higher, everybody would be much happier.

The third came from overhearing a JA ionospheric prediction expert stating that the sunspot minima would occur somewhere between next September and November. Knowing that the "up slope" is far steeper than the "down slope," it seems as though after those dates we can look forward to ever improving conditions which, as you will agree, is really something.

3.5 Mc. hasn't really been getting the attention it warrants, but maybe the QRN has been just as high elsewhere as here. **Eric BERS195** provides the only two calls—OK1KTW and SM8VC, both 2045z to 2115z.

7 Mc. is getting the bulk of listening by **BERS195** and the calls heard this year now total 89, 63 of which were heard in April! Some of the pickings are MP4BBL, YI2AM, FA3YY, FA8JO, FA9VN, CT3AV, GD3IBQ, OA4ED, CN8BJ, UJ8AG, CR9AF. Eric also heard and sent a report to FN8AD so in time we may know for sure if the current one is still OK.

2QL couldn't leave the game alone for long of course and before bigger and better things appear is making out very well with a modest 15w. Frank lists CT1DJ*, XE2KZ, KP4CC, KP4HK, YU1AHL, DL4DT. The QRP worked all Continents except South America in one week-end. A very informative letter arrived right on the deadline from **9YY**. Thanks Alan. The 7 Mc. debut was made with a 400 ft. long wire antenna and in the few breaks of QRN piled up a sizeable list of Ws plus KG6* and KW6BB*.

7RK put in a couple of appearances around breakfast time, mainly looking for an FF8 QSO, but quite a lot of interesting calls heard, such as YU3AKL, FKS8BD, FA8JO, YI2AM, ST2MF, SP9KAD, MI3KW, EA3JB, OK3AL, I1AWP, FA9IO, SL6CE, SM5AQW, F8QJ, UB5KBR, OQ2KAA, HB9KC, IT1TKK plus, at more respectable hours, FK8AB, W, VE, KG6 and KL7.

The American Novice Licensees can be heard most evenings on 7175-7200 Kc. and, considering their maximum power is 75w., put in some fine signals. Haven't as yet worked one, but suggest that if you don't get an answer to a CQ on your own frequency, try a listen in that section of 25 Kc.

14 Mc. has been very patchy. Early in the month, some good openings were observed but later it faded again. Evenings and night here have been hopeless. **3AHH** QSOed on c.w., I1ARK, VP9BG, XE2KF, KA0IJ, YU3BC, PJ2AJ, OH5NK, KZ5FI, ZC4IP, LA4KD, GM2FHH, ZB1BU, VP7NS, YN1OC, HH2FL, SV1SW plus the usual Ws and other Europeans. **2QL** included a new one in the shape of FQ8AP* and others were ZS2BC*, VP7NS, VP9HH, HR1KS. **9YY** also made the 400 ft. antenna perform on this band by working DU1DO, KL7AOW, LA4KD, SM5OS, OH2VZ, VS6CI, VU2GM, VS2DH, LU3FG, DL1DX, GI4RY, FA8IH, ZB1BU, CR9AF, CE4BX, HB9AO and many others which must make that DX C.C. look a whole lot closer now. Activity is confined to evenings owing to power being off all day and after 2330 local time.

2AOU been doing a lot of work with antenna and modulation changes, but did find time to hear on phone OH2OV, KG6AEX, I1WN, YV5AB, DL4EA, VS7FG, FA8HS, CP1AV, VK1AF. **7RK** also been playing antennae and the first QSO on the new T2FD was with ZS2BJ on phone. Other listings on phone were VK1HM, ZS6BW, KM6BE, VR3C and W6*; c.w. provided LU8EE, FK8AO*, FK8AE, FK8AI, YN1OC, and KJ6FAA*. Some excellent W signals are available long path around 2200z.

21 Mc. has provided a lot of interest during the month. **2AWU** sets the ball rolling by making WAC in one week-end. The difficult Continent now seems to be Europe, openings being few and poor. On c.w. Walter worked SM5CO, KA9AA, CR9AH and on phone W8BHW, KH6YL, HP3FL, HR1BG, CP5AB, HC1RE, YV5AP, DU6IV, VS6BE, TI2TG, TI2RC, VQ4AQ, and heard VR2CG and CE1CQ to bring the total to 43 worked.

3AHH on c.w. worked Ws and XE1JG; on phone KZ5CP, HC1FS, W6NZX, KZ5WZ, HP3FL. VK6s have also been active on this band as evidenced by **6FL** who, apart from putting in a terrific signal here, has under his belt ZS7C*, VS7JB*, HP3FL, TI2RC, OQ5*, VS9*, KZ5*, VQ4*, ZE* and ZS*—all on phone. Here, most of the time was spent listening. One that eluded on c.w. was FU8AA and also heard HR1BG, TI2RC, ZE2JE. W6AL was audible here almost all of one Sunday at S9, being the only W. Maybe his kw. plus a three element rotary atop a 91 ft. tower was largely responsible.

28 Mc.: 4XJ is now the possessor of a three element rotary 40 ft. high. Just to prove its efficiency, has worked 48 stations in 12 countries during the month. Many KH6s and Ws plus DU7SV, W3HXE/MM at Luzon, VK9GW, XE2WE on several occasions, KX6BB, KR6CY, KA5JA, CO2KC, KZ5AE, KZ5AL, KZ5HO, HP3FL and the meagre few who got away were HP1HO, KP4TO and CO2PF. All of course were on phone.

QSLs to hand are—**3AHH**: HS1VR, YK1AH, PJ2AJ, KG4AF. **2AOU**: LU3PF, SP2KAC, DU1TP, VS1ES, CE6AO. **2QL** (for VK4 operation): HK4DP, CE7ZQ, FM7WF, VQ1RF, FB8ZZ, KC6QY, PJ5RE; brought the 4QL total to 156 confirmed. **BERS195**: CN2AS, FQ8AP, OK2BDV (3.5), PJ1UF, SP2KGA, YI2FD, ZC4RS, 5A3TR, 9S4AX (7 and 14 Mc.), DL7AJ (3.5), HA5PP, W4IGH/VO4, ZE3JI, HK1DZ, HR1KS, PJ2AA, VR4AE, VS9AW. **9YY**: DU1CV, VS6CL, LU3FG, FO8AB, KZ5GH, FA8IH.

Some **QTHs** of interest are:— .....

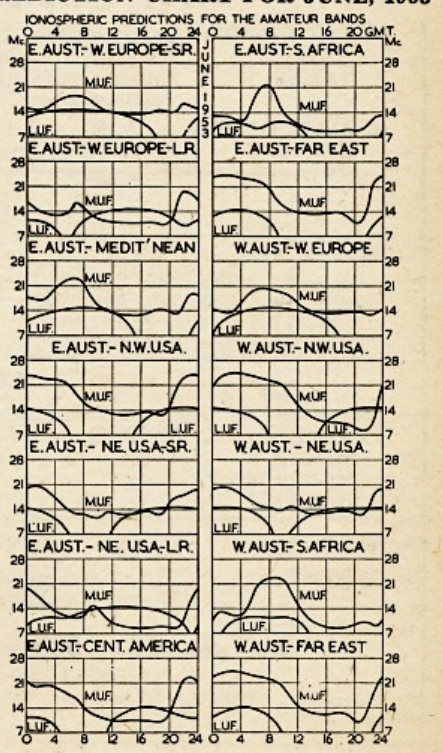
PJ2AJ—Colony P.O., Lago Oil and Transport Co., Aruba, Neth. Antilles.
HC1FS—Box 1, Quito, Ecuador.
VP7NS—Box 48, Nassau, Bahama Is.
YN1OC—Box 483, Managua, Nicaragua.
HP3FL—Box 76, David, Panama.
HH2FL—Box 153, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.
KM6BE—Navy 3080, Box 18, F.P.O., San Francisco.
MP4—C/o. MP4KAC, C/o. Kuwait Oil Co., Ahmadi, Kuwait.

A few random jottings fasten first, on doubt as to the authenticity of C3BF whose card from 9YY was returned as unknown. 9YY also tells of a "Pacific Islands Monthly Net" run by the magazine of the same name at 0100z, 0700z, and 1900z. Pacific Island stations call CQ PIM for 15 minutes for QSO with island stations only and only listen for DX after that. May be a chance to snag some of the rarer ones. Alan does not mention bands, but I imagine 7 Mc. The Easter Island expedition still seems somewhat hazy, but CE0AA still planted in minds. FO8AD expected to leave Rapa Is., but now will be there another year. VR6AC reported active on Pitcairn but haven't heard him.

Known active ZM stations are ZM6AA Box 23, Apia; ZM6AB C/o. Apia Radio; ZM6AC C/o. Observatory, Apia.

Thanks gang for the help this month.

PREDICTION CHART FOR JUNE, 1953



* 5 Galvin Street, Launceston, Tasmania.

Bring Your Regulations Handbook Up To Date

AMENDMENTS TO 28th FEBRUARY, 1953

In all places where mentioned, delete "Chief Inspector (Wireless)" and insert "Assistant Director-General (Wireless)."

Page 3, para. 2: Delete the definition of "duplex operation." Insert the following: "'Third party' means another person besides the two principals (one of whom is at the transmitter and one at the receiver)."

"'Broadcasting station programmes' means programmes broadcast by stations operating on the medium frequency broadcast band, i.e. 535 Kc. to 1605 Kc., but, in remote areas where, because of unsatisfactory medium wave reception, it is usual for listeners to rely on programmes originating from high frequency broadcasting stations situated within the Commonwealth or its Territories, such programmes are also to be included in this definition."

Page 4, para. 15: Delete. Insert: "An application to install and operate an Amateur station at a Department of Navy, Army, Air or Supply establishment, depot, camp, etc., may not be considered unless the approval, in writing, of the Department concerned has previously been obtained. In the case of the Departments of Navy, Army and Supply, such approval may not be recognised unless issued by the Central Administrations, Melbourne. Authority in this connection has been delegated by the Department of Air to Area Headquarters in the States concerned. The question of the operation of an Amateur Station on Department of Civil Aviation property is a matter between the Regional Director concerned of that Department and the applicant."

Page 6, para. 29: Third line, amend to read: "Their use for instructional purposes is confined . . . etc."

Para 32: Amend to read: "An Amateur Station Licensee may transmit in English and receive in any recognised language, plain language messages . . . etc."

Para. 33: Fourth line after "direct or indirect," insert: "or any matter of a commercial character."

At end of paragraph, insert: "The relevant regulation under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1905-1936 concerning this matter reads as follows: '56(3). The Licensee of an Amateur Station shall not, except in the case of an emergency and with the consent in writing of an authorised officer, undertake the transmission or reception of messages for third parties'."

Para. 36: Third line after "emanating from other Amateur Stations," insert: "irrespective of the frequency of the originating transmission."

Insert new paragraph: "36A. Subject to certain conditions, permits to record and re-play transmissions from other Amateur Stations operating in the Amateur frequency bands below 50 Mc. are issued to the licensees of Amateur Stations by the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, in the various States."

Insert new paragraph: "36B. The licensee of any Amateur Station may, in the Amateur frequency bands of 50 Mc. and upwards, record and re-transmit transmissions from other Amateur Stations operating in these bands. The equipment so employed must be capable of producing recordings of high quality. Re-transmissions made at the request of an individual station are to be limited to a period not exceeding five minutes in the aggregate in any one day."

Page 7, para. 42: Fourth line, after "licence or special permission" add: "In this connection, due regard must be paid to the provisions as indicated in paragraph 15."

Para 43: Delete following portion: "In certain cases . . . three months." Insert in lieu thereof: "In certain cases, temporary permits to operate portable or mobile stations within any of the authorised Amateur frequency bands below 50 Mc. may be granted for a period normally not exceeding three months in any one current year of the licence."

Para 50: Delete. Insert: "An Amateur Station Licence may be granted to a radio officer, or other qualified person, to operate an Amateur Station on board an Australian ship on which he is employed, if the approval of the Master of the vessel is obtained. Such a licence confers the right to operate the station at all times except while the vessel is anchored in any harbour, or moored to any wharf or pier belonging to another Administration. Permission to operate the station while so located must be obtained from the Administration concerned."

Para. 53: Delete. Insert: "Any person who has been licensed by a foreign Administration to install and operate an Amateur Station on board a ship, yacht, etc., shall not operate his station while the vessel is anchored in any harbour or moored to any wharf or pier in Australia or its Territories without the approval, in writing, of the Assistant Director-General (Wireless)."

Page 11, para. 86: After the word "Persons" add: "Electrical wiring associated with Amateur installations must comply with the safety standards demanded by the Electrical Supply Authority concerned. In addition, licensees must take all other reasonable precautions considered expedient for the particular installation."

Para 89: Delete "166" in the last line and substitute "144".

Page 12, para. 95: Add: "While single components such as valves, transformers, etc., capable of handling power in excess of that authorised shall be permitted for use in Amateur Stations; unless prior permission has been obtained from the Superintendent, Wireless Branch, no combination of such components may be so used."

Para. 98: Delete all figures and substitute the following:—

*1.84—	1.86	Mc.	†288—	296	M.c
3.5 —	3.8	,,	†576—	585	,,
7 —	7.15	,,	1,215—	1,300	,,
†14 —	14.35	,,	2,300—	2,450	,,
†21 —	21.45	,,	5,650—	5,850	,,
26.96—	27.23	,,	10,000—	10,500	,,
28 —	30	,,	21,000—	22,000	,,
50 —	54	,,	30,000 Mc. and Above.		
144 —	148	,,			

* Available for emergency network purposes only. Normal Amateur activities are not permitted in this band.
† Temporary allocations.

Para. 102: After "Pulse" emissions add: "N.F.M.—Narrow band frequency modulation telephony. Transmissions to be confined within plus or minus 3 Kc. of the quiescent carrier frequency."

"Type A3a waves. S.S.S.C.—Single sideband reduced carrier telephony."

Page 13, para. 105: Amend to read: "The types of emission at present available for use by Amateur Station Licensees, and the frequency bands to which their use is restricted, are as follows:—

A1 (keyed c.w.), A3 (speech), A3a (single sideband reduced carrier), and N.F.M. (narrow band ±3 Kc.) —All authorised frequency bands.

F.M.—All authorised frequency bands above 26.96 Mc.

A2 (m.c.w. only)—All authorised frequency bands above 50 Mc.

A0 (c.w.) and Pulse (unmodulated)—All authorised frequency bands above 144 Mc.

A1 (keyed c.w.) and A3 (speech)—1,840 to 1,860 Kc. (Emergency purposes)."

Insert new paragraph: "105A. Where pulse transmission is employed, the length of each pulse and the nature of the emitted wave-shape shall be such as to restrict the radiated sidebands within the limits of the Amateur frequency band in which the transmission is taking place."

Para. 110: In second and last lines delete "166"; substitute "144".

Page 14, para. 111: Delete the words "and duplex" from both the heading and the second lines of this paragraph. Delete also the words "In the case of duplex operation" from the fourth line and the word "However" from the fifth line.

Page 15, para. 121: (e) delete "(except 0 or 1)."

Page 16, para. 129: Delete "166"; substitute "144". Add new paragraph: "132A. Provided that portable and/or mobile stations which are using telegraphy indicate their location (including the State) at the end of the initial call and immediately before conclusion of a session, as required by paragraph 132, the suffix '/3', '/2', etc. (to indicate the State from which operation is taking place), may be added to the station call signs for intervening calls and the word 'portable' or 'mobile' may be omitted therefrom."

Page 25: Appendix 3, in third line, delete the word "Assistant" and amend address to read "340 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1."

Page 27: Delete "Duplex Operation . . . 2,111".

Page 28: Under "Mobile Amateur Stations" add further paragraph "132A".

Page 29: Under "Portable Amateur Stations" add further paragraph "132A". Under "Pulse transmissions" add further paragraph "105A". Under "Recordings —Retransmission by" add further paragraphs "36A, 36B".

FEDERAL, QSL, and DIVISIONAL NOTES

FEDERAL

Fed. President: G. Glover, VK3AG.

Fed. Secretary: G. M. Hull, VK3ZS, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne.

QSL Bureau: R. E. Jones, VK3RJ, 23 Landale Street, Box Hill, E.11, Vic.

DX C.C. Manager: G. I. Morris, 50 Eighth Street, Parkdale, Vic.

NEW SOUTH WALES

President: John Moyle, VK2JU.

Secretary: David H. Duff, VK2EO, Box 1734, G.P.O., Sydney.

Meeting Night: Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor: Harry Powell, VK2AYP, 9 Russell Avenue, Wahroonga.

QSL Bureau: J. B. Corbin, VK2YC, 78 Maloney St., Eastlake, Sydney (Inwards and Outwards).

Zone Correspondents: North Coast and Tablelands: Noel Hanson, VK2AHH, Ryan Ave., West Kempsey; **Newcastle:** Ron McD. Stuart, VK2ASJ, 98 Dunbar St., Stockton; **Coalfields and Lakes:** Harry Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock; **Western:** W. H. Stitt, VK2WH, Cambijowa, Forbes; **South Coast and Southern:** Roy Raynor VK2DO, 42 Pettit St., Yass; **Eastern Suburbs:** Don Knock, VK2NO, 42 Yanko Ave., Waverley; **Northern Suburbs:** Harry Powell, VK2AYP, Russell Ave., Wahroonga; **St. George:** Chas. Coyle, VK2YK, 84 Carlton Cres., Kogarah Bay.

VICTORIA

President: G. Dennis, VK3TF.

Secretary: C. Gibson, VK3FO.

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. G. Pickering, Law Court Chambers, 191 Queen St., Melb'ne.

Meeting Night: First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melb. Technical College.

Divisional Sub-Editor: K. E. Pincott, VK3AFJ, 14 Dunscombe Ave., Ashburton, S.E.11.

QSL Bureau: Inwards—Graham Roper, VK3ZB, 26 Lucas St., South Caulfield, Vic. Outwards—Frank O'Dwyer, VK3OF, 190 Thomas St., Hampton, S.7, Vic.

Zone Correspondents: Western: T. B. Rodda, VK3ATR, Box 254, Warracknabeal; **South Western:** W. Wines, 11 Redford St., Warrnambool, and E. Giddings, 8 Nelson St., Warrnambool; **North Eastern:** A. D. Buchanan, VK3FD, "Booroondal," Wahring; **Far North Western:** M. Folie, VK3GZ, 101 Lemon Ave., Mildura; **Eastern:** Leo Dwyer, VK3SG, and John Battrick; **North Western:** C. Case, VK3ACE, Cumming Ave., Birchip.

QUEENSLAND

President: J. A. Weddell, VK4FT.

Secretary: V. P. Green, VK4VS, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night: First Friday in each month at the Royal Geographical Society Rooms, Ann Street, City.

Divisional Sub-Editor: J. T. Hope, VK4XL, Royal Parade, St. John's Wood, Ashgrove.

QSL Bureau: Jack Files, VK4JF, Vanda St., Buranda, South Brisbane (Inwards and Outwards).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS.

Secretary: R. G. Harris, VK5RR, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide. Telephone: J 1151.

Meeting Night: Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor: W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 10 Victoria Avenue, Rose Park.

QSL Bureau: Geo Luxton, VK5RX, 8 Brook St., West Mitcham, South Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President: G. A. Moss, VK6GM.

Secretary: J. Mead, VK6LJ, Box N1002, G.P.O. Perth.

Meeting Place: Perth Technical College Annexe, Mounts Bay Road, Perth.

Meeting Night: Third Tuesday of the month.

Divisional Sub-Editor: W. E. Coxon, VK6AG.

QSL Bureau: Jim Rumble, VK6RU, Box F319, Perth, West. Aus. (Inwards and Outwards).

TASMANIA

President: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE.

Secretary: F. J. Evans, VK7FJ, Box 371B, G.P.O., Hobart.

Meeting Night: First Thursday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool Street, Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor: L. E. Edwards, VK7LE.

QSL Bureaux: Inwards—T. Allen, VK7AL, 6 Thirza St., New Town; Outwards—Ray Calvert, VK7RT, 310 Park St., New Town, Tas.

Zone Correspondents: Northern: M. A. Chaplin, VK7CA, 56 Merallyn Rd., Launceston; **North Western:** R. K. Wilson, 11 Cunningham St., Burnie, Tasmania.

FEDERAL

HAM CONTACTS

From "Radio and Television News," February, 1953, comes an interesting little par on F.C.C. warnings to American Amateurs. It says:—

"The F.C.C. has recently warned that American Amateurs are forbidden, in accordance with International agreement, to contact foreign stations whose Governments prohibit their Amateurs from working stations outside their country. Governments currently making this prohibition are Austria, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Viet Nam, Laos and Thailand.

"U.S. Hams are also required to comply, when working VK (Australian) DX, with an Australian regulation restricting Aussie Hams to sending and receiving only experimental data and remarks of a purely personal nature.

"The Commission stresses that this list is not to be confused with one published last Spring of countries which permit outside contacts but forbid their Hams to handle International third-party traffic.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR A.O.C.P.

The following is a list of candidates who were successful at the examinations for the Amateur Operator's Certificate of Proficiency held on 13th January, 1953, and 14th April, 1953:—

New South Wales

Examination held 13/1/53—
Seymour, N. C., "Evandale," via Forbes.
Pinkwitch, L. C., 30 Buchanan St., Hamilton, Newcastle.
Furner, L. K., R.M.B. 616, Coolamon.
Cragg, F. M., C/o. Station 2GN, Goulburn.
Sparke, L. J., 58 Kahibah Rd., Highfields, via Adamstown, 2N.
Glocker, H. W., 68 Belemba Ave., Lakemba.
Riley, M. R., 6 Baringa Rd., Mortdale Heights.
Roache, R. H., 32 Mount St., North Sydney.

Examination held 14/4/53—
Pearsall, D. L., 52 Railway St., Wyong.

Victoria

Examination held 13/1/53—
Scott, D. V., 174 Johnson St., Maffra.
Blackney, E. J., Whittington P.O., Geelong.
Battrick, J. B., C/o. Mrs. T. Cook, Commercial Rd., Yarram.
Zimmer, W. M., 70 Skene St., New Town, Geelong.

Examination held 14/4/53—
Giddings, E. B., 8 Nelson St., Warrnambool.
Townley, N. H., 12 Harry St., Maidstone, W.9.
Russell Clarke, M. N., 127 Manningham St., Parkville.

Queensland

Examination held 13/1/53—
Hildred, R. H., Weewondilla Rd., Warwick.
Henkel, S. J., Kilkivan.
MacIver, J. G., 21 Hurd Ter., Morningside, Brisbane.

Examination held 14/4/53—
Campbell, G. V., Australian Hotel, 19 Albert St., Cairns.

South Australia

Examination held 13/1/53—
Ness, L. K., 17 Haigh St., Broadview.
Gebhardt, R. M., P.O. Box 16, Mount Bryan.
Richards, R. H., 44 Wattle St., Fullarton Estate.
Mackay, D. S., 40 High St., Kensington.

Examination held 14/4/53—
Porter, J. B., 137 Anzac Highway, Grassmere.
Campbell, D. N., 8 Wotton St., Cheltenham.
Daw, E. C., East Terrace, Gawler.

Western Australia

Examination held 13/1/53—
Gates, B. H., Lot 99, Wakefield Cres., Albany.

Examination held 14/4/53—
Wood, J. R., Kellerberrin.
Leaver, H., The Homestead, Byford.

Tasmania

Examination held 13/1/53—
Mulligan, P. D., C/o. 7NT, Private Bag, Kelso.
Dunne, P. L., 47 Poets Rd., West Hobart.

Examination held 14/4/53—
No candidate was successful.

A.O.C.P. AT SIXTEEN!

Negotiations extending over two or three years have concluded satisfactorily between the Postmaster-General's Department and the W.I.A. with approval being given for the issuance of the A.O.C.P. at sixteen years of age instead of eighteen years as at present.

Such approval will not materially change the W.I.A. membership nor shall the list of licensed Amateurs in the Commonwealth be greatly swelled because the age limit has been lowered; but it will provide for the licensing of the few more advanced pupils who occasionally reach the A.O.C.P. standard or better at an earlier age than average.

Due to an amendment being required to the Regulations under the W/T Act, and other Departmental work being involved in this change, some few weeks will probably elapse before the new provision will be introduced.

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NEW SOUTH WALES

The April meeting of the N.S.W. Division was held at Science House on Friday, the 24th, with the President, Mr. John Moyle, in the chair. This was to have been the Annual General Meeting, but owing to a slight formality required by the new Articles, not having been complied with, the Annual Meeting has therefore been postponed until May. The remarks in the last issue in regard to the incoming Council should therefore be advanced one month.

As seems inevitable at a meeting which is to consider Convention agenda items, the attendance was poor, only a few more than 50 members and visitors being present. A report of the Convention was given by the Federal Councillor, Jim Corbin, and Observer, Vaughan Wilson. Those who were frightened away by the agenda items missed a rather interesting experiment. The items were quickly ratified with a couple of slight qualifications and then a lecture on r.f. chokes, prepared and recorded on microgroove discs by John Moyle, was played. As a contrast, the President then played a tape recording of an actual meeting of the Victorian Division in which several of those involved in the production of "Amateur Radio" told their story.

The suggestion is that the recording of lectures should be undertaken for distribution to Branches and Country Groups. There is no fundamental reason why they should not be distributed between Divisions if lectures of interest can be recorded.

Useful criticisms and suggestions were received from those present and it was generally agreed that the idea would very materially assist in the successful organisation of the Country Groups which is now being attempted. On the whole, it was thought that the microgroove record was the more promising method.

Among the several notable visitors present was 4DO from Rockhampton, whom the writer used to work fairly regularly back in the middle twenties!

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE

Stewart 2PL, at Griffith, is on the air again with a new tx and putting out a very good signal on 40 mx. The gang might subscribe to a xtal insert in place of the carbon mike, Stewart, if you use it long enough, hi! Ray 2APZ, at Leeton, off the band with the 'flu wog, but pleased to hear you back again now Ray. Hope you have a good holiday on your trip to VK3. Geoff 2BQ and Ross 2PN, at Tumut, are converter building for 144 Mc. and are always looking for contacts on that band.

Alf 2BW, at Wagga, active mainly week-ends on 80 mx, has plans for a beam on 144 Mc. about 50 ft. high. We now have a new Ham at Coolamon, Lyn Furrier, Associate, having received the A.O.C.P.—waiting on call sign at the moment. Congrats Lyn, hope to work you soon. John 2AFQ, at Deniliquin, active on 80 mx with f.b. sig. Have not heard the Canberra boys for a long while. What's doing at the Capital chaps?

Peter 2APP, at Monteagle, has had a sad loss. His father having passed on. The sympathies of the zone are extended to you and your family, Peter. Jim 2TC, at Monteagle, also heard on 80 mx. Ron 2RH, at Yerrinbool, also active on 40 and 80 mx. 2AJO, at Coolamon, has at last heard 2WH at Forbes on 144 Mc., our tails are now up at Coolamon.

HUNTER BRANCH

The April meeting of the Hunter Branch was held at Maitland in the 2HR Auditorium to hear a lecture on "Two-way Communications on V.h.f." presented by Mr. Page, of Pye Radio. The lecture included demonstration contacts between a base station in the lecture room and a mobile tx touring round Maitland.

Thirty-eight members were present and the demonstration and lecture caused keen interest.

The Urunga Convention organised by the North Coast Branch of the W.I.A. was well attended by Hunter Branch representatives, there being twenty in the Hunter Branch contingent. The list of prizes won at the "Do" is impressive, comprising two firsts, one second, and two thirds, which shows that the boys were well to the fore in the various contests. In the first 144 Mc. tx hunt, Harold 2AHA was second and Shorty 2NX was third. In the second 144 Mc. hunt, Taree Bill 2AEY was first and Ken 2KG came third.

The Urunga Scramble was the crowning glory for the Hunter Branch. This was a joint effort with Harold 2AHA and Les 2AOR (then an Associate) as chief tree climber and antenna erectors, Associate Syd Daniels as log-keeper. Bill 2AEY as transport provider and chief refueller for Ron 2ASJ, John 2JU, Dave 2EO, Cec. 2KR and Johnny 2GA as moral support, and Ron 2ASJ, the "Ham with the golden voice" on the mike. Ron won the Scramble with a score of 40 contacts in one hour and also won the miles per watt prize by working ZLs on 5 watts.

Other Hunter Branch members at Urunga were Stan 2UY and Varley 2SF in charge of the hidden tx, Bruce 2SU and off-sider Bill Nicoll, Ken 2KG and son Athol, Bill 2XT and family and Merv. 2AAM who piloted a plane up from Newcastle and stayed over night.

Harold 2AHA and family continued on up the coast and has been working portable VK4 from Southport and Toowomba. Dave 2BZ is erecting a 4 over 4 over 4 beam for 144 Mc. Bert 2CN is now a Daddy. Use him as a second op., Bert. George 2AGD has acquired a new car, but still has time for QSOs on 40 mx. Joe 2ANL dabbling with tape recorders. 2WP on phone soon, also constructing new aerial tuning unit. Keith 2KG waiting transfer of antenna masts for new shack. Any offers to assist? Hope he's on for the VK-ZL Contest. Two new Hams came on the air in April to swell the ranks of the Hunter Branch. They are Leo 2QB and Les 2AOR.

Active in the Technical College Radio Club are Max 2OT, Leo 2QB, Les 2AOR and Associates Frank Stobbs and Rodney Prout. Associate Max O'Brien still has ex-disposal gear for anyone to look over. Associate Norm Stanley practising c.w. and expected to sit for the A.O.C.P. exam in the near future.

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Pictured above is Ron Stuart (VK2ASJ) and his home equipment. Also shown is the Cup he won in the Urunga Scramble at Easter. Ron made 40 contacts in an hour—really good going. (Courtesy of "Newcastle Morning Herald.")

VICTORIA

The May meeting of the Victorian Division was held on 6/5/53, approximately 100 being present. Two very interesting films were shown. As these took most of the evening, very little time was left for general business.

The President welcomed G5YD to the meeting. In replying, Gus mentioned that he hoped to take out a VK call sign.

Our hard working Secretary has been given three months leave of absence, as pressure of business prevents him giving the attention to his honorary duties he would wish. In the meantime, Col 3FO has stepped into the breach. How do these chaps find the time?

We are now operating under the Uniform Constitution, consequently two extra Councillors were required. Messrs. R. Bradshaw and S. Dixon have been appointed.

QSL Cards. In future VK3 cards for Interstate will be forwarded free of charge. This service is for VK3 members only, and will cover cards for New Guinea, Papua, Norfolk Island and Cocos Island as well as cards for Antarctic Expeditions.

New Members. The following Associate Members were admitted to the W.I.A. at the last meeting: G. B. Lancaster, P. S. McKenna, N. W. Rogers. Welcome fellows, may it not be long before you are full members.

The May motor race—sorry, transmitter hunt—brought forth a few less starters than usual, possibly because some of the usual participants did the right thing on Mother's Day. The tx was hidden high in the grandstand at the Bentleigh Football Ground. First to arrive was Don 3ALQ, whose time was 35 minutes, followed by Bob Hilderbrand, 3NZ, 3VZ, Eric Hall and Morrie Grimwood in that order. The first six arrived within 45 minutes.

Towards the tail end a vehicle equipped with highly technical and secret devices arrived. This was thought to be an invader from space until the smiling face of the driver was seen, and the cheering multitude welcomed the first public showing of the "Three London Norway" D/F system. Len was so sure it was ultimate in D/F equipment that he played golf all Sunday morning, left the installation of the gear to the 2nd op., and claims that road tests were not made. In future, Len had better let Phyl take control of proceedings.

All joking aside, I think that the time is ripe for a set of rules to be drawn up to cover future hunts. I'd suggest all starters to be honour bound not to exceed speed limits and automatic disqualification of anyone whose average speed is higher than 25 m.p.h. taken over the shortest practical route. Further, operator-drivers to stop when taking bearings, teams to be permitted to take bearings while in motion. Operator-drivers could have an allowance, say one minute per mile deducted from their actual time, the corrected time to be used to ascertain final placings. Possibly my views will raise a controversy, but better that than for the "gendarmes" to sit in wait for anybody whose car is fitted with a loop.

Had the doubtful pleasure of meeting that fugitive from a Pulitizer Prize—the VK5 scribe. After studying him from all angles, decided to do without the 75A. Guess I'll have to settle for an SX28.

Is it dignified for a Past President to be seen in public wearing kilts? 3AFF gone off stew for life, not nourishing enough for a square dancer. 3BH experimenting with mobile gear, going north I believe. 3SX re-building. 3AUP abandoned radio in favour of square dancing. 3ARV telescope building—any good for tx hunting Ron! 3AZK about to do a little in the Queen's Service. 3AHH very happy with results on 21 Mc. 3TX has built new shack, but can't get in; XYL claimed it for a storeroom. The offer to help with the poles still stands Bill. 3ANS proud Daddy of baby boy. Congrats to you and XYL Noel. Don't forget, Noel, "DX Before Diapers!" (How's that Mr. Parsons).

Finally, don't forget the next Tx Hunt is on the 7th June, same arrangements as usual. Listen to 3WI on the Sunday morning in case inclement weather necessitates a change in plans.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

Main item of interest this month for the zone was the get-together at Warracknabeal on 25th April. 2 p.m. Sunday showed 3AKW (Lubeck), 3AFO (Horsham), 3IB (Dimboola), 3NN (Yanak) and 3ATR (Warracknabeal) present with carloads of YLs, XYLs, and junior ops. Quite a representation of the zone and I think a record for the zone for mobile gear. Bill arrived with a new "bomb" with the boot full of gear. Better wait for a while Bill before you start drilling holes in the dash to fit it up front. Merv. also had most of the station in the back seat and going well. Charlie had a very neat set-up which really beefed out a signal.

Highlight of the day was the hidden tx hunt with Byron's box of tricks. With threatening weather the gang set off in all directions of the compass and after the passing of about 20 minutes, 3AFO and 3ATR converged on a location down at the back of the high school. Both drove straight past it and commenced a search on foot about a hundred yards further on. The comment of two girls fishing in a nearby hole, "There's something fishy going on here" aptly summed up the situation. However, after more cross bearings, both cars within fifty yards of one another, were abandoned for the final search. A final D/F by 3ATR neatly intersected a line of rushes in the bed of the Yarriambiac Creek where on investigation the monstrosity was found to be nestling.

Later, with the weather still threatening, the gang decided to adjourn to 3ATR's farm. But alas, a dark and stormy night, a wrong turning and 3ATR gone on ahead, and soon a lonely voice in the night calling and signing 3IB mobile and lost. However, a quiet, heart to heart chat on 40 mx soon put that right and the evening eventually went off quite well with the gang departing about 2200 hours for their respective QTHs. To change the subject, it has been mooted that zone hook-ups be held at 1930 hours instead of 2030 hours on Wednesday nights now winter is here, so to all you irregular attenders, if you don't hear us, try an hour earlier in case a change has passed the vote.

NORTH EASTERN ZONE

Just lately it has been our pleasure to extend a hearty welcome to some new members in the zone, namely 3CO at Seymour, Frank 3ZU at Euroa, and Gordon 3XU at Wangaratta. Thanks are due to Doug 3IJ who made a comprehensive survey of everybody and their activity before going away on six weeks' leave for yours truly who was away for a fortnight.

Hugh 3AHF is apparently bowling along quietly while Ken 3KR and Keith 3JC are on to the DX with Syd 3CI breaking on to 20 mx Europeans with a Lazy H. In the new equipment class are Alan 3UI with a low-powered tx to cover 80 to 6 mx complete with v.f.o. and 25w. input; Rex 3UR with a portable tx and rx under construction, and Jack 3PF modifying his portable gear. Howard 3YV is concentrating on tape recorders and Jim 3JK is going on holidays to VK2.

Col 3WQ is doing a good job in encouraging some enthusiasts at Cobram to a participation in our privileges while Stan 3AGT is home building. Nil heard of Les 3ALE, Peter 3APF, Murray 3HZ, Tom 3TS and 3GD, but Henry 3HP has been heard running the Emergency Net hook-ups around this way from time to time. It is regretted that last month's notes, written by a volunteer while 3FD was away in Ballarat, went astray in the mail and hence did not appear.

SOUTH WESTERN ZONE

The Zone Convention was held at Warrnambool on the 18th and 19th April. Members were welcomed at Bill Wines' home during the afternoon, and later twenty attended the Dinner at a leading hotel. During Dinner, Frank 3ZU was farewelled; he is now in the North Eastern Zone at Euroa. A tx hunt filled in time before the Annual Meeting, this was won by John 3AGD and gang. Office-bearers elected were: President, 3AGD; Vice-Presidents, 3YW and E. Giddings; Secretary, 3AMH re-elected; Zone Correspondents, Bill Wines and E. Giddings. It was decided to invite the W.I.A. to hold the State Convention at Ballarat this year and the zone hook-up to remain the same, 3.5 Mc. Sundays at 1000 hours.

Sunday morning saw two tx hunts, the first was won by 3AGD and 3AKR, the second by 3NA and 3EQ—a very late last minute entry. The zone's thanks go to Bill Wines for running the show. It was decided to hold the next Convention at Colac on the first available week-end in November.

Cec. 3YW was seen leaving 3ZU's with something that looked like a bird perch, look out chaps s.s.s.c. on 144; anyway Cec., a hearty welcome to the zone. John 3AGD and Kevin 3AKR, not satisfied with a Convention, went home for tea and then earbashed after having twenty-four hours of it at Warrnambool. Norm 3EQ had Anzac week-end in Melbourne with YF and harmonic. QRN very bad down this way so not much doing. More QRM soon, as Associate E. Giddings has received the long-awaited news, so hope to see you all on the hook-ups soon. John Adams is swotting code—won't be long now.

BALLARAT AND DISTRICT RADIO SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the above Society was held on 27th April and the election of office-bearers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. G. McCulloch, 3GM; Vice-President, Mr. E. K. Ridgway, 3IV; Secretary, Mr. A. C. Lord, 3BE; Treasurer, Mr. J. L. Lewis, 3HW; Committee: Messrs. A. D. Kerr, 3AL; D. E. Thomas, 3ZL; W. E. Sadler, 3AMH; G. S. Braddock, 3AGL.

The Society is fortunate in having an excellent club room made available by the Y.M.C.A., which is used for the General Meetings and will be the location of the transmitter being installed by 3IV as soon as the call sign has been received.

The membership of the Society now consists of 27 full members, 12 associates and 11 students. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, the Society business being followed by a Syllabus item, such as film evenings, lectures, visits to local radio and electrical centres. Film evenings are held every quarter, under the direction of 3SE, whom we thank for his efforts in this direction. Thanks are also due to the State Film Centre, Melbourne, for the supply of technical films.

Congratulations to our President, 3GM, and Committeeman, 3ZL, for their win in the W.I.A. V.H.F. Field Day.

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QUEENSLAND

There has been some new faces added to the Council for this Division to look to your interests for the next twelve months. A good balance of old and new Councillors being established.

Vince 4VJ has relinquished his job as President after doing a mighty job for nigh on two terms and has been relegated to that of Vice-President, your scribe being the other.

John 4FT becomes our new President and I know you all wish him success. He is one of our older young members, and should be able to give a young man's outlook on our problems with a little of that wisdom that is acquired with age. John is one of our consistent c.w. men on 14 Mc., though he does put out a bit of phone occasionally, and is always willing to have a rag chew on either. As President, keep him busy fellows, as I know he will enjoy hearing from you.

Paul 4VS is the new Secretary, another one of the younger men, though not so active on the air, still building and changing his mind. He hopes to do his best in the job of Secretary. He takes over from John 4FP who has looked after us secretarily now for the last two terms, very successfully, and had to relinquish the task owing to ill health catching up on him.

Ray 4LJ is the new Class Manager and has assumed the responsibility of Station Manager from 4TN. Ray is one of the younger set, so we should see some activity from these three, who, by the way, are ex-members of our student classes.

Chas 4NC retains the Treasuryship of the Division. Seems as if Charlie has a lifetime job of it, must be about the fourth term now, though he has no complaints.

Keeping it in the family, Clare is looking after the outgoing QSLs. More power to you both there. Jack 4JF is still the man to worry for those rarer cards we have been looking for, as he is carrying on with the incoming QSLs. A more happier and obliging chap for the job I've yet to meet. I dips me lid, Jack.

Arthur 4FE is the Federal Councillor, and by the sound of it, we will be hearing plenty from him during the year. Dictator hi! With Arthur 4AW as traffic and emergencies, the two should have something cooking for us shortly.

Tom 4PD, to the boys in the country, is your rep. once again. With his genial smile and full of co-operation, I don't think you fellows need worry about your end here, so don't forget to let him know what you expect of him.

Bill 4WF is again the Librarian. He expects you to do your bit by exchanging the books regularly. Bill, when not chasing the elusive DX, is always open for a rag chew.

Ernie Moore assumes the mantle of student rep. Why, has me guessing, as Ernie has had this on now for countless years. It's about time you got the courage to get a ticket Ernie. Don't you think?

Aussie 4TN is handling public relations, and looking after any queries and what have you from all visitors to Brisbane who want to meet the gang. Don't forget him all you visitors to this fair city.

John 4FP will assist our Secretary and handle the monthly distribution of "QTC" to be in the fray. Just can't keep a good man down.

There, briefly, is your Councillors and we hope for your full support and co-operation in the year.

The VK4 Contest in April seemed to be a success though myself couldn't devote the time owing to poor health. So please send in your logs. 4KS gains a certificate from this Division as the highest in the VK-ZL DX Contest last year. 4XJ one for his log in the DX Contest last May, he also bobbed up in the outgoing QSL Contest with 317 cards, yours truly second with 308, 4RW third with 292. 4CC was first with the incoming QSLs, 188. How does he do it? The other places escape me at the moment.

A word of advice on the Contests. Get behind them chaps with your support, as some very nice prizes are to be won by the successful contestants. Those who saw them at the Annual Dinner can vouch for this.

The Annual Dinner brings to mind the poor response of members in supporting these functions. Of the Brisbane crowd, the attendance was lamentable, and as one of the new Councillors, would like members' opinions on why they don't support these functions arranged for them and at their request. If criticism is justified, shoot it along, but let it be constructive. To those who were there, more power to them. To those missing, an extra good time was had, the drinking fraternity had plenty to keep them in good spirits and enjoy Joe's jokes. The few competitions proved entertaining and popular. 4AW's secret sounds outdid the Dyer Show. Your scribe collected three bottles of the best and to those interested, the sausages were burnt. 9FM was a welcome guest from Madang, He spoke on behalf of the country member, and was very interesting on his experiences in New Guinea. He also gave this "bod" a new country with a long awaited New Guinea confirmation. Good luck to you, Ron, in your new domicile.

The speeches were varied and full of interest. To the scientific mind, the C.S.I.R.O. and I.R.C. representatives were very interesting. Mr. Andrews spoke on behalf of the R.I's. Dept., and advised those who were re-building to incorporate t.v.i. precautions in any new gear. So get out the dope and include it in that new rig, save a lot of rehashing afterwards, fellows. To those who were at the Dinner, we will see you again next year. To those who were not, we hope to, as your support is most needed in your Institute. Likewise, your attendance at the monthly meetings. After all, fellows, how are we to know of your interests if we see or hear nought of you? Don't hide yourself or your grievance behind your microphone switch. As Mr. Andrews, from the R.I's. Dept. commented, "A strong Institute and an active membership is an advantage to the Amateur fraternity." So what say chaps. If each one of us gets one new member, the Division will have 100 per cent. membership of Amateurs. If each one of the Brisbane boys attends at least four meetings a year, we can become a wide awake Division. The advantages are many, and in these days of high prices, the cost is very modest, for the interest taken on your behalf by the Amateur throughout Australia.

A few notes from the Ipswich gang. Leon 4FW has that worried look, building himself a c.r.o. Harold 4HG is taking his time with the new rig, the modulator is something out of the box, I'm told. Norm 4KD has been on vacation down the coast catching the biggies and the bigger ones that got away and missing the DX (what DX). Merv 4MW hasn't been heard about the band and Jack 4SF has been putting a few extra hot spots in his rx to hear the better with! Can you, Jack? Maybe I'm deaf down here, conditions up that way have been slow owing to lack of signals.

Down this way, conditions have been poor even Bill 4YA has been missing of a night from the 14 Mc. band. Occasional break through allowed a European or North American QSO. Managed a ZB1 one afternoon and a few Gs who were coming through in good strength, but no sign of them the following afternoon. Heard 4RW getting amongst them. Harold 4HM seems to be consistent on the band and a few times I've fancied him giving it away in disgust. Frank 4ZM is a newcomer to the game, he has been working a few of the locals. Heard Jim 4OB putting out a very small signal with his brand new call. Chilla 4SD and Des 4TL also pounding the brass. Clive 4CC has been trying out some new ideas and is looking for the perfect all-wave beam.

Being a c.w. man, I haven't heard much of the phone gang so can't say much about the happenings on that end of the band. 7 Mc. opens here occasionally and some good signals have been heard though at this QTH the noise takes over very often and likewise the 21 Mc.

Well fellows, hope these notes are acceptable, not professing any literary aspirations or having the wit of my fellow scribe from the B.B.S.S., till next month, good hunting.

Stop Press. Contest for June. The Brisbane gang will have a portable rally at the Pine River on the Sunday after the next meeting, 7th June. A hamper picnic and sporting fixtures for the ladies and offsprings, so bring along your portable gear and favourite antenna system and be in the fun. The scoring will be miles worked by a divisor of the input, so make it small and portable, a rx will be on the spot. 7 Mc. is the band suggested. Don't forget the hamper or the family. To those without a car, the Petrie train leaves around nine o'clock. You have to be in it to win it.

NOTES FROM NORTH QLD. BY 4EL

Well chaps, since the powers that be asked me to provide officially the doings from the North, here at the beginning of 1953, I must say that the task has been herculean, mainly due to the fact that none of my brother Hams have done the right thing and let me know what they have been doing, which leaves me to find out only by being regularly on the different bands to find out for myself. This I have found

rather hard due to the fact that I have just purchased a new home in Townsville and moved the family up there from Brisbane and thus have been mighty busy with things other than Ham Radio.

The most consistent Northerner heard on the band is Harry 4HV, he has been doing quite a deal of c.w. on 14 Mc. and has also acquired 4BE's beam, the latter having been transferred south. Have heard Harry rag-chewing with old cobbers at Macquarie Island, and otherwise burning up the ether. 4WH, after being flooded out in the recent rainy season, has now got going on 14 Mc. and seems to be getting out well as usual. Heard old Ted 4EJ going to town with the Europeans a few weeks back, but not heard him lately. Also heard a very rare Townsville-ite Edgar 4GF rag-chewing over the town on 14 Mc., still putting a mighty sig out with his 15 watt phone. Another local, 4DE, has also gone South to take a course of instruction in the R.A.A.F. You wouldn't believe it boys, his instructor is none other than Frankie Hine, ex-4QL, who is now back in VK2. Had a QSO with Frank lately on 14 Mc. and he says his noise level is awful, wondering whether to renovate his house or sell it and buy another. I wonder why?

Often meet Wally 4RU, of Stuart, and he tells me he has a yearning to try 144 Mc. as he has visibility from his place of toil and 4QN here and wants to try a link with me. Says also that he has a fully band-switched tx ready to go at anytime. Wally is also trying to get the interest of the Townsville gang together and it sounds like a good idea to the writer and for my part I will do my part in any way possible.

As for my activities out here at Clevedon, when it is possible for me to be on the air I find conditions quite fair, although poor in comparison with the old days, however 7 and 14 Mc. produce a W.A.C. almost anytime I am on, that is on c.w., whilst 21 Mc. has produced a W.A.C. on phone but for that elusive South American, although it is easy to work Central America, such as TI, KZ, HP, etc. 28 Mc. has produced occasional W contacts on phone and one night two or three Europeans were worked on phone.

I would once more like to remind the Northern lads, including VK9, PLEASE let me know what you are doing so as I can keep this column going, send in anything you have been doing, even if it seems of no value to you. It is to the other chaps, so what about it chaps.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

As joint President and Chairman of the VK3 and VK5 Divisions, "All right Barbier, sit down, I can prove it." As I said before I was rudely interrupted, as joint President and Chairman of the VK3 and VK5 Divisions, it gives me much pleasure to resume writing the VK5 notes from where I left off in March, just before the white ants got in!! The monthly general meeting for April was held in the clubrooms to a capacity gathering, in fact it was overflowing, and when one realises that it was an annual general meeting with its consequent reports, balance sheets, etc., then it is all the more remarkable. Of course the nasty minded few suggest that it was because the President was away in Melbourne acting as President to that Division, "Sit down Barbier! I can prove it!" But, of course, no decent minded person would even entertain that thought for a moment. I thangyou, I thangyou.

The details of the meeting are copied from the minute book by kind permission of Hal 5AW and for all I know may be a pack of naughty naughties, but I am stuck with it and there you are! Gordon 5XU occupied the chair and read the President's report, Jim 5FO read the Treasurer's report, and everybody said nice things about everybody else, including the President, and a good time was had by all, I think! I was sorry that I was not there to hear the nice things that Les 5PN and Mr. Goldsmith said about me.

Associate member Lee Paltridge, who is a member of the Coronation schoolboys tour, and at the time of reading this, right in the thick of things over there, thanked members present for their gift at the last meeting and promised to give them all details of the Coronation on his return from England. A suggestion was made that a cricket match be played between the phone boys and the brass-pounders, and also one between the Members and the Associates, and then with no further business to attend to, the Acting Chairman stepped down from the lofty heights and acted as projectionist for the excellent selection of films that were screened.

Our welcome visitor, Cliff 4CG brought along a film of the Great Barrier Reef and it was a knockout. To prove his versitility he then gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on single sideband working which laid everybody in the aisles. Jokes aside, he did a splendid job, he illustrated his points on the blackboard, and all and all showed that not only did he have a thorough grasp of his subject, but was able to impart it to his listeners with a dry, humourous manner, that had the audience in the palm of his hand right from the start.

The meeting ended after 11 p.m., probably one of the latest on record and probably one of the best. Nice work fellows. Among the welcome visitors were Cliff 4CG, Harry 5HN, and Messrs. A. Sadowsky, N. Hilbig, T. Dayman, H. Coglan, L. Russell, H. Phillis and one or two others who were a little coy. I believe that the Port Adelaide Fire Brigade arranged that no fires would occur whilst Harry 5HN was at the meeting. Nice of them wasn't it?

UPPER MURRAY AREAS

5MA has commenced rack mounting his gear, at least he has the gear on the floor and the rack is partly made. It is expected that the gear will climb up into place in the rack one day whilst Fred is away—he hopes! 5RE cannot find time to do more than put in a Sunday morning appearance on account of labor difficulties concerned with getting his crop off. Is the "Flannagan and Allen" act still on, Hobbie? 5KW has confounded all the critics, including me, by proving himself to be the most experimental experimenter that ever experimented experimentally. For further details of this back-room boy (Harry to you), see details of the Upper Murray meeting night.

5BC has had very little to disclose lately, but Hughie did evince more than a passing interest in "How to reach 144 Mc. in two tubes," as put into his hand by 5MA. This article is an overseas publication, and makes it look too easy. 5CF has been working early and late on account of the fruit harvest. Murray is not a grower, but comes into the picture when the crop is delivered to the place where he is on the salary sheet! At the moment, radio is playing second place to a growing daughter.

5TL started on a tx, alleged for 144 Mc., but accidentally smashed an RK34. Tom's command of Esperanto suitable for the occasion made even "Rattling Salvation" sag at the handlebars, but 5KW came to the rescue with another tube, but the tx is still not on 144 Mc. No doubt it will get there in good time, but progress gets off the beaten track sometimes when

it contacts Tom. By the way, Tom, that W.I.A. xtal that you left for me to deliver to Reg 5RR went first to Ross 5FL because the joker that took it from you thought you said that was who it was to go to. Wouldn't it?

The monthly meeting of the Upper Murray gang for April was held at the QTH of Fred 5MA, and a good roll-up of the locals was in evidence. For the purpose of record, the following were present, 5BC, 5KW, 5CF, 5RE, 5TL and 5MA, and some time was spent in discussing the work that had recently been completed by 5KW. Harry had made a 6 mx xtal controlled converter and a multi-tube converter for 144 Mc., and an almost completed 144 Mc. tx. The work completed was a credit to Harry and quite disposed of the ugly rumours floating around that he "was doing nothing and had lost interest in radio." 5RE suggested that Harry had the right idea and as he appeared to have plenty of time he might feel like doing a little of the work of the other fellows. The look of alarm that appeared on the face of Harry gave the fellows a rough idea of what they could expect from him in that direction.

My correspondent did not make any mention as to whether they did full justice to the goodies at the end of the meeting, but from my personal observation of one or two of them whilst they have been in the City, I should say that Mrs. 5MA was lucky to get the tablecloth back intact. My correspondent also refers to the fact that the Port Pirie gang have secured some newspaper publicity upon their forming a radio society, a fact to which I hasten not to lay any claim to being responsible, and goes on to say that the Upper Murray gang have been holding meetings for the past year and feels sure that a deal of information has changed hands in that time, to say nothing of the improved friendship between the boys which has eventuated from the meetings. To all this I heartily agree, and would like to add that as yet I have received no details of the Port Pirie gang so am not in a position to comment on their good work. I believe that Doc 5MD has received a letter from the Rev. Cuthberlet 5OD giving details of the new venture, but as I never speak to Doc if I can help it, I suppose I will have to turn my collar back to front and await results!! After all said and done, we Parsons must stand together. Did you get it? That's what happens to you when you take a trip to VK3, sharp as a razor, that's me!!

I have always in my natural modesty known that as a President and Executive Officer I was, shall we say, "hot stuff," but just how hot I never realised until I arrived in Melbourne recently. Not wishing to bore you with a long story, I will give you the facts and let you judge for yourselves. The day I arrived in VK3 the Administrative Secretary (Mrs. Hurley) of the VK3 Division resigned and then at the Divisional Council meeting, Russell 3SX resigned, together with all the office-bearers. Realising that a strong man was needed at the helm the meeting then asked me to take the chair and call for a new Chairman. In my usual resolute and stern manner I did so and restored order out of chaos. Now I ask you, am I over suspicious or am I over-suspicious? Why this wholesale resigning because I am in VK3? Why did the Council all vacate their office? What's that? It is the usual thing at the end of each year. Well, well, well, some new modern idea I suppose, I will have to tell the VK5 Council about this, I wouldn't like to think that I was outstaying my welcome in VK5, what am I saying?

In the Federal notes of last month's magazine, the writer goes on to describe the Federal Dinner and states, I quote, "In addition to members, etc., the following notorieties were present." Tut, tut, what will he call me if he ever writes me up!

The 1953 VK5 Council office holders remains unaltered except for the position of Custodian of the Instruments, which is now held by Doc 5MD. This became vacant on account of Frank 5DW being transferred to VK6 and therefore being unable to handle the instruments any longer. We are sorry to see Frank go, he has always done his bit for VK5, both on the Council and off, and our loss will be VK6's gain. Best of luck, Frank, and don't forget to keep the VK5 filter in the rx.

I attended a magazine committee meeting whilst in VK3, and was more than impressed with what I saw. The members of the Committee all know their jobs, and an air of efficiency is evident all the time. From my observations I have come to the conclusion that I have been sending the parcels of butter, potatoes, etc., to the wrong joker, and in future will do my centipede act in a different direction, are you reading this Mr. Higginbotham, Sir? Incidentally, at this meeting, sitting at the end of the table, directly facing me, was a character obviously suffering from flatulence or windy spasms, judging by the sneering look on his face, who never took his eyes off me all night. I enquired as to who he was from Tom 3HX on our way home, and was horrified to be told that it was the VK3 scribe, the one who has been so nasty to me in the VK3 notes. I went back to the meeting place the next day on the lookout for him, prepared to engage in fisticuffs if necessary, but I found out that he had left just after me. Probably got the windup when he saw how muscular and well built I was. He was lucky, for two pins I would have poked out my tongue at him!!

SOUTH EAST AREAS

Associate member Ron Scott has been finding out quite a lot about disc and tape recording the hard way, that is to say he has bought a disc and tape recorder and pays for his mistakes. The man who makes the most mistakes Ron, is usually the most experienced in the long run. Brother, am I experienced!! 5TW is still trying various different arrangements inside his 2 mx gear with various different results. I don't know what that sounds like to you Tom, but to me it looks like the old one about the dog chasing its own tale, or should it be tail? 5CH is on the move again, this time to a new home, so this time I should say he will stay longer in the QTH. Claude, wouldn't it be cheaper to pay the rent than to be coughing up to the carrier all the time? You beaut, that one up to me!

Associate member Don Pitt is busily engaged in converting a ZB2 rx with the idea of listening to the 2 mx sessions. What's a ZB2 rx? Well er, er, it is, er, er, excuse me a second will you fellows, my wife has some dishes which need wiping, and there isn't any DX about, I'll be back never fear.

5MS has the 60 ft. tower finished and painted and all that is required now is some new bearings for the beam, and then Stuart will be propagating in the propagatable directions. Pardon me if I am getting a bit technical, but I have been to VK3. The walls of the shack of 5KU are almost completed and Erg has been on 20 mx c.w. quite a bit, although he has no new countries to report this month. I am led to believe that a big re-building programme has been the cause of no news of the gliding, but both gliders are well under way and the 1953 spring should see a young man's fancy turn to—no not "luv"—but gliding. Congratulations on your effort in the VK-ZL Contest OM.

Associate member Jack Fowler has been turning out uncountable numbers of converted FS6s for a nearby fire fighting unit, in fact his assembly line looks like G.M.H., almost anyway. All present will stand to attention in reverence as I make the next announcement. 5JA is still "dishes before DX." John my heart bleeds for you, in fact I shed a tear, and if it were not for the dishcloth in my hand, I would make a sign of pity. 5FD has only two contacts for the month to report, and there is some suggestion of it being dishes there too. Oh no, not you too John, come what may, I must rally my henchmen in this time of crisis. "I am very sorry dear, it was only one of the old cups," Blime!

5CJ, despite the accusations of Pro 5PS (5MD), has not been to the "Big Smoke" for quite some time and will not be visiting there for several months, possibly October. Apart from skeds and a few additional contacts on 40 mx, Colin 5CJ has been very quiet. Incidentally, there is the biggest misnomer of all time, Pro 5PS, if ever there was an Anti 5PS, he is one. Luna Park sign indeed! I have already had a letter from the proprietors of Luna Park alleging libel against the sign. Pro 5PS, sez you!

Most of us here in VK5 are at a loss to understand why there should have been any discussion among delegates as to the advisability of putting into print the names of the various Divisional members of the Advisory Committee. Here in VK5 the members of that Committee realise that they are acting as buffers between the Ham and the Department, and are there to do a good job for the Ham whilst at the same time playing the game by the Department. After all, the Radio Amateur asked for the formation of this Committee, the Department did not force it on us, and it should be considered an honour to be selected for the Committee. The members of the Committee are not hangmen, informers, or servants of the Department, but are there to keep the grand old game of Amateur Radio on its present high plane, so why not print the names?

The news that the Department has sanctioned the Technician license has caused a flood of enquiries as to the conditions, standards required, etc., from quite a number of people in all walks of life. It would appear that this license will be the means of increasing the membership of the W.I.A. beyond even the numbers envisaged by the most enthusiastic organiser. Don't forget therefore, should you receive any enquiries from anyone interested, to point out that the Technician license was not granted to us just because the Department likes the look of us, but because the W.I.A. put up such a battle for it that it was able to convince the Department of the need for the license. In this case the W.I.A. means Federal Executive, and it is to those shrewd gentlemen that a good deal of the credit must go.

Talking of F.E., reminds me that I also attended a meeting of that august body, whilst I was in VK3, and whilst I am not going to comment on the members comprising the executive, I am going to say that I had an entirely wrong impression of F.E., both as to its operation and also its functions. My visit to the meeting was an eye-opener, and I can only say that F.E. has recruited a staunch and loyal supporter in myself to its ranks. In fact I might as well go the whole hog in self-abasement, I sincerely support the purchase of the filing cabinet. No kidding!

Anybody reading these notes would wonder if I was a VK3 or a VK5! Anyway as joint President of the VK3 and VK5 Divisions . . . help. This is where I came in.

[The honourable President wishes me to refute the rumour that while in Melbourne, he was seen in the front row at the "Folies." He also wishes me to definitely deny the fact that he borrowed the super-power glasses used by the "race-caster" at the B.B.S.S.. Does that get you out of a hole Warwick?—Editor.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The last general meeting of the year was held on 21st April, and after routine matters were attended to, the Annual Meeting opened. Attendances at these meetings always give an indication of the interest taken by members in the management and business portions of the Division's activity. Quite a good muster was present and the meeting went with a swing. The usual rag-chew divided the two meetings, and it is on these occasions that many members are able to see and discuss items of common interest, and even after fifteen or twenty minutes, the Chairman has to rap hard to call members to further business.

The Annual Meeting once opened, and the minutes read, proceeded to alter somewhat the phrasing of some of the paragraphs of the previous Annual Meeting as they appeared to show personal opinions rather than an impartial picture of the discussions.

As there were only seven nominations for a Council of nine, the President declared those nominated elected, and the election of officers was arranged for the first Council meeting.

The President's report having been read, indicated a steady progress over the year and a survey of the lectures, lecturettes and demonstrations showed a good range of subjects of interest to members. The Treasurer, always an important person, read the Balance Sheet, which added to the success of the year's effort. With increasing costs and the subscription remaining as hitherto, one of the most successful financial statements was presented. As an addition to the report, the QSL Officer for another year set out a useful effort, and while still maintaining card postages at the same figure as for years past, the finances still stand rosy.

The Council at its first meeting on 28th April, at the residence of 6KW, elected the following, after co-opting two members to fill the vacancies to make a total of nine. Patron, 6GH; President, 6GM; Vice-Presidents, 6RU and 6AG; Secretary, 6LJ; Treasurer, 6LL; 6WI Broadcast Officer, 6GH; Sub-Editor "A.R.," 6AG; QSL Officer, 6RU; Lecturer Co-ordinator, 6FT; Contest Committee Council Liaison Officer, 6OR. 6KW is the Federal Councillor and 6RS so far has not got a job, but depend on it, he'll have one soon! The foregoing are a good team and another successful year is assured.

The trophy winners for the year were: Hayman Trophy (an electric clock for best piece of home constructed measuring equipment), to 6EC for an Inductance Bridge. Carl Cohen Trophy also to 6EC for his work on television scanners, etc. The Trophy (a Cup) is for original research. The Parks Trophy for best u.h.f. work is retained by 6DW as no candidate presented a claim. The G. A. Scott Trophy for all-round work covering the whole sphere of radio was retained by 6RU as it requires at least three candidates for the winner to be decided. Both the Parks Trophy and the G. A. Scott Trophy are outsize globes. The Lambert and Lang Trophy for the winner of the field day contest is held by 6AG. In the absence of a Field Day Contest during the year he did not have to defend his title.

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TASMANIA

Well news has been hard to get this month due to my spies being spied on and having to lie low. My only active agent was the one in the Queenstown area who reports that once again Amateurs come to the fore in an emergency. Chas 7CF and Associate Harold Bracken worked until 4 a.m. recently to stoke up the 7CF rig on 3885 Kc. for emergency working with two Army handie-talkies taking part in the search for a man lost in the Lake Margaret area. The rig was tested with the Army at 6 a.m. and communications maintained until 9 a.m. when the lost one was found eating a hearty breakfast at the Lake Margaret power station, exhausted and slightly frost bitten after two nights in the open. Nice work boys!

Alan 7MY also worked until 4 a.m. recently, only on another channel. This channel was the one carrying the surplus water off the 7MY property which became blocked during a recent deluge and threatened to wash the shack into Pipe Clay Lagoon. Alan hopes to be on soon with the 144 Mc. gear, but at the moment has his hands full sowing part of the 4 x 10^3 acres with wheat. Will be very glad to hear the old 7MY call again Alan.

Harold 7HB, of Richmond, now has a rig ready to go, but as yet no sound. I believe Tommy 7FM, of Field Day fame, had a hand in the rig, or was it a foot Tom? I had occasion to visit the Launceston area recently, so fitted the "halo" to the car with the object of startling the 2 mx fiends in that district. Well I called my head off a number of times without reply and finally in desperation called at the 7LZ shack to arrange a sked. Col was out, but a sked was arranged per the XYL, and two very good mobile contacts were had with 7LZ and 7BQ. By the way, Col, could follow your tone signals right through the hills in the Longford direction, but not a sound at Longford.

We had a rainy week-end recently, which is the excuse at the 7BJ residence to retire to the shack. So Joe retired with slide rule and antenna book to design a corner reflector for 144 Mc.—worked out fine, too, the only catch being the amount of wire involved, so he settled for three stacked dipoles which he says brings in the ignition noise much louder than on the "halo." The new cascode converter works fine, too. All Joe wants now is a signal to listen to. That old wireless bird has been around again, this time to Alan 7CF with a son and to Tiny 7JD with a daughter, congratulations boys—also to the XYLs.

NORTHERN ZONE

7LX has a swag of storage batteries and with 7XW's "G.W. Tx" and a 108 as a rx is going bush to Piper's River. 7LZ is bound for we do not know where. His QTH on vacation or activities, radio or otherwise, are not known to date. Perhaps after the mention of hot scones in last issue, Col's XYL has handed him a sealed envelope containing the holiday destination therein. 7GM has gathered together some 144 Mc. equipment and will set up radio hearing at Bridfort—right on the Bass Strait, so next month we may know of the results. Also believe Gordon has a 576 Mc. Tx either completed or well on the way, so Len 7BQ will have someone to QSO.

7RK is always busily punching the key and his sig on 20 mx can be "seen" on the S meter almost nightly. He now has a T2TD antenna, my informant tells me it is a tilted folded dipole. 7AM is vowing he will give Ham Radio away —is it the motoring interest Les, or just bad conditions? 7BQ decided he would brush the dust off the grid bias supply, which is used in his grid block keying and re-build it. Perhaps he will be chasing those rare call signs these coming winter evenings. Believe Associate Gordon Bonner has been busy with a tape deck which is well on the way to completion. Associate Henry Solomon has been busy on his rx in his spare time.

A future lecturer will be Mr. Charles Greaves who will no doubt enlighten us a little on Post Office Telecommunications. The monthly meeting will be at the usual place and it will take the form of a discussion on a report from the Federal Convention Delegate.

NORTH WESTERN ZONE

Our congratulations go to Associate Ken Hancock who has taken unto himself an XYL. A Dinner to celebrate the occasion was held at the home of 7WA, many of Ken's friends and most of the N.W. Zone members being present.

Our last regular meeting was held at the home of 7AB at Devonport to benefit the members in that district. A resolution was passed that Devonport members begin regular meetings and Burnie and Devonport meet together every three months. Devonport still being included in the N.W. Zone.

DX has been coming through exceptionally well for very short periods only. 21 Mc. being quite active at times, though not very much on 28 Mc. At times 7WA has heard some rare DX on 14 and 21 Mc., but by the time the rig has warmed up the band has closed down again. 7SF has just returned from a holiday in Sydney and Melbourne. Hope he did not have to pay too much for excess luggage on the return journey on surplus bargains. 7WI broke through on a recent Sunday for the first time in many weeks and was peaking on S9, but after 10 minutes faded out completely. Occasionally 7WI is heard at Burnie on 80 mx.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The opinions expressed in these letters are the individual opinions of the writer, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the publishers.

5 Blythwood Road,
West Mitcham, Adelaide.

Editor "A.R.,"
Dear Sir,

The Editorial on Television in "Amateur Radio" for May, 1953, contains matter in paragraph 3 which could be construed as indicating that the Wireless Institute of Australia favours a certain form of operation for the proposed Television service in this country, and this Editorial apparently had the approval of the Federal Executive.

For years the traditional attitude of the Institute has always been non-commercial, non-political and non-partisan, and I wish to emphasise the danger of any departure from this attitude. The membership is recruited from many walks of life and represents many shades of opinion and although in private we may favour this or that policy, as an Institute we cannot, in my opinion, take any official part in matters such as the subject of this Editorial.

If the Federal Executive considered that, in spite of the risks concerned, the Institute should take a stand on just how the Television service should be run, then it should have consulted the membership.

Another, and perhaps more serious, objection to the published remarks is that this particular subject is part of the terms of reference of the Royal Commission which, at the date of writing, is still hearing evidence and it seems improper and ill-considered for the Institute to anticipate a decision in this regard.

—E. P. McGRATH.

340 Gillies Street,
Nth. Fairfield, N.20, Vic.

Editor "A.R.,"
Dear Sir,

I was very surprised to read on page 13 of the May issue of "A.R." that the Federal Executive of the W.I.A. was happy to announce that the P.M.G's. Department had sanctioned the issuance of Technicians' Licences "for persons who cannot master the Morse Code."

It seems very strange to me to read where the P.M.G's. Department had admitted that it is possible for persons to be in the position whereby they cannot master the Morse Code. (One would have thought that the P.M.G's. Department would have been the very last authority to admit such a thing!)

I have had some Morse experience, in various ways, and my experience leads me to believe that there is no normal person on this earth who cannot master the Morse Code, provided he/she makes an honest attempt to master it. (I once heard it said that a baboon could master the Morse Code given reasonable time.)

To me, it appears that there are certain individuals in this country without "Tickets," who, like a lot of others with same, have no interest in the Morse Code, and who are craving for the day when Morse will be cast aside as an exam subject in connection with the A.O.C.P. In my opinion, these people have no right to call themselves "Amateur Radio Operators."

Would any other reader care to comment on the subject of "Licences for persons who cannot master the Morse Code"?

—ERIC W. TREBILCOCK, BERS195.

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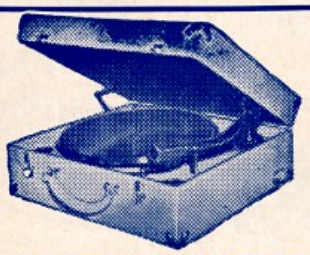

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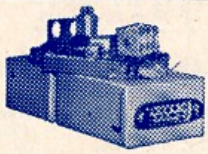

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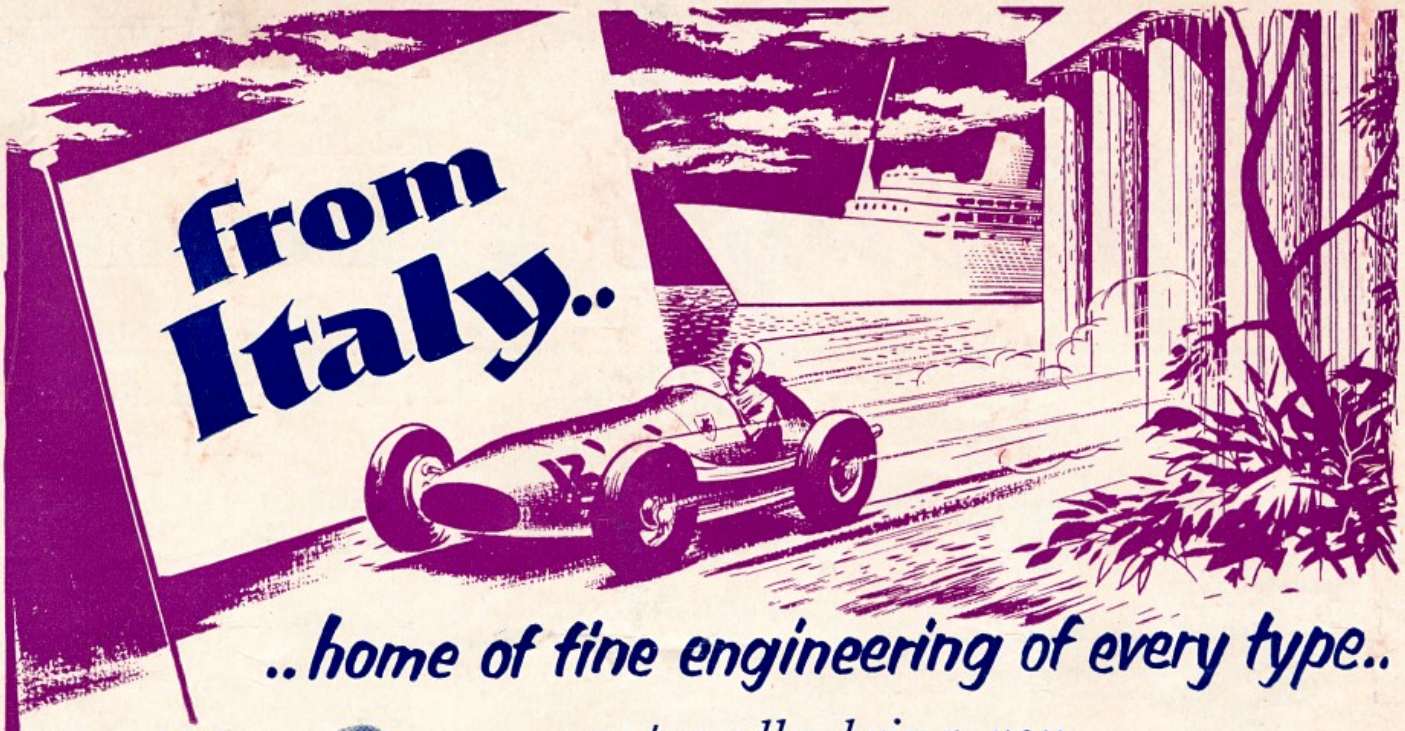

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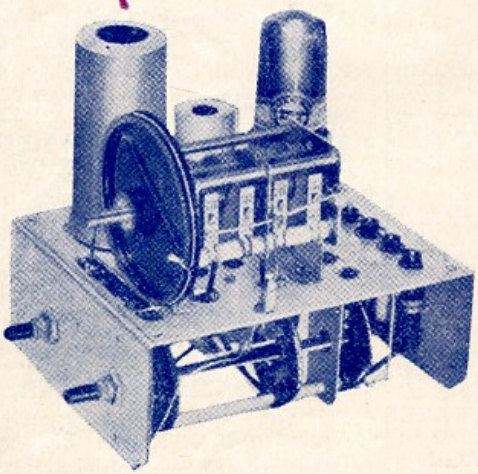

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